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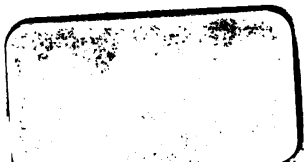

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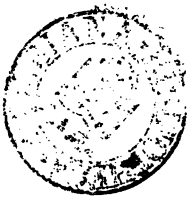
TALES, &c



My good man, said Mr. Cavendish, I am particularly anxious to see the contents of that little wicker basket.

Tale 2. Part I.

Published by B. Dulau & Co. Soho Square, March 1. 1809.

TALES

OF

THE HERMITAGE;

IN ENGLISH AND ITALIAN.

TRANSLATED BY

V. PERETTI.

Rules are given in the Introduction for properly placing the Accent on the Italian Words.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Tales which form the subject of this little Work, have been published in London, by an English Lady, who has thought proper to conceal her name. She gives them the title of *Tales of the Hermitage*; because, says she, it was a venerable hermit, named Cuthbert, who composed them, to instruct as well as to amuse. Whatever may be the origin of these Tales, they are very agreeably written, and are six in number. I have translated the three most interesting in Italian, in order to afford the Amateurs of these two languages an easy means of comparing their different genius, and to make them well acquainted with the expressions which are peculiar to them. For this purpose, I have placed the translation oppo-

site to the original, and have given a corresponding number to both languages.

To this first advantage I though I might add a second, which consists in properly placing the Italian accent, which has always been looked upon as the fundamental basis of all good pronunciation. The small pains Grammarians have taken to clear up the most necessary point of Italian pronunciation, induces me to lay down, in this place, rules and principles for properly placing the accent on every word.

I know that there are Italian books, in which the accent of every word is pointed out. But if a book without this help falls into the hands of a Foreigner, his pronunciation will still be wavering, and subject to many faults: he will be like that little child, who, being unable to walk without leading strings, cannot go on, when his conductor fails him.

How is it, that among so many Grammars, which have been published abroad, no mention is made of the most important part of pronunciation? It arises, I

think, from our preferring to copy, rather than apply ourselves by meditation to elucidate the most essential points. And yet, 'tis doubtless, that, (languages having preceeded all grammatical compilations,) it is by analysis and reflection alone that we have succeeded in digesting them in the best manner of speaking and writing, which can only be obtained by consulting the most polished and learned classes of a nation. Consequently, it is by this means alone that Grammarians can attain any degree of perfection.

Now, in order to be well acquainted with the nature, and to fix the different seats of the accent, I shall here make an abstract of what I have said more at large on the subject in another place.* To

* See *Guida*, &c. *Trattato dell' accento Italiano*, and the Grammar. I shall add, that Grammarians have also generally neglected the pronunciation of the *o close*. Some of them have erred on this point, as I have shewn in the annotation to p. 49, and foll. of my Grammar. I here speak of the accent only. As for the rest of the Italian pronunciation, I refer my Readers to what I have said on that subject in my Grammar.

which I shall add the result of some new observations, which I have made on this matter. But it is important that we should first have a clear idea of it, and I say—

Every Italian word has one accent, and cannot have several. The accent being, as it were, born with the word, cannot be displaced by any retrenchment or addition whatever. *Amáre*, for example, has the accent on the *a* of *áre, crédere* on the *é* of the first syllable *cré*; and in case the *e* final is cut off, we shall say, *amár, créder*. It is the same with the nouns *amóre* and *amór*, *dolóre* and *dolór*, &c. The same principle is followed when pronouns are added to verbs. Example: *credétemi*, believe me, *dítemelo*, tell it me; and thus, because *credéte* has an accent on the second, *díte* on the first, and that these accents, which are peculiar to the word, can never be displaced.

Accent consists in a slight elevation of the voice, accompanied with a small pause. The stress of the voice must be on one of the vowels which compose the

word, rather than on another. If the accent falls on the final vowel it is called *grave*, and there is no trouble with it; for it must be, and is always pointed out in writing, as *qualità*, *sentì*, *desiderò*. This is the only instance where the word terminates with some degree of *éclat*, on account of the elevation of the voice, which is inseperable from the accent. This should be observed by the French, who, when speaking or reading, are hurried away by their accent to pronounce indiscriminately and forcibly the final vowel, even when it is not accented.

The whole of this discussion is confined to the initial and the intermediate accents, which last is called *acute*, and occurs more frequently. This accent is sometimes on the first syllable, sometimes on the second, without any mark, and yet it cannot be made sensible to those who are unacquainted with it. Our Grammarians, says Corticelli, leave the acute accent to the *discretion* of the reader. But that which calls for a very small share of attention from a native to what he reads, requires

of a foreigner, a very close study of the following rules.

1st. Not only the words which are marked with a grave or final accent, have the accent on the LAST SYLLABLE, as *città, gioventù*, &c. but even those which terminate in *ai, ei, oi*, or *ui*. Yet there is a very remarkable difference between them. The first have the accent on the last syllable, and that accent is always pointed out; with the latter, on the contrary, the accent is only placed, and, consequently, can only be felt on the last vowel but one; that is to say, on the *a* of *ái*, the *e* of *éi*, etc. without its ever being pointed out. 'Tis thus you will pronounce *assái, desiderái, parlerái*, &c.; *babbéi, pigméi, cicisbéi, fariséi, ameréi, corrisponderéi*, &c.; *filatói, lavatói*, &c. *altrái, colái*, &c. This rule is so general, that it gives beforehand an exception to the following rules, whenever the words may have any of these terminations.

2d. Every word composed of two syllables, such as *ciélo, térra, ária, fuóco*, &c. have an accent or stress of the voice on the first syllable.

3d. In those words which are composed of more than two syllables, the accent is chiefly on the penultimate, or last syllable but one, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE FINAL VOWEL IS PRECEDED BY TWO CONSONANTS,* as in *ucéllo, negromante, basilisco,* &c.

N. B. The Italian accent chiefly resides on the last syllable but one (rules 2d and 3d). I must observe, however, that when that syllable is short, the accent can never take place; for the accent being insepa-

* Adverbial positives, as *caldamènte, gravemènte,* follow this rule; but it is not so with their superlative, *caldissimamente, gravissimamente,* &c. The reason is, that these superlatives are commonly formed of their declinable superlatives, such as *caldíssimo, gravíssimo,* &c. and keep the same accent on the *is* as the words from which they are formed. Hence it is that *ottimamènte, pessimamènte* and *massimamènte,* although adverbial superlatives, follow the same general rule, because their declinable superlatives *óttimo, péssimo, mássimo,* do not terminate in *issimo.* I may add, that by a very singular exception, we pronounce *áristà, pólizza, Lépanto;* and with the Neapolitans, the names of towns, *Táranto, Otranto,* with the accent on the first, although the final vowel is preceded by two consonants. I know of no other exceptions to this rule which may be considered as general.

rable from a sort of pause, or rest, could not be connected with a short one, which is adverse to all rest. In this case the accent necessarily falls on the long syllable which immediately precedes the short one, as in these words—*strépïto, spírïto, indelébïle, magnífico, insuperábïle,* and others.

But how are we to know the extraordinary seats of these accents?

I answer—1st, Those who are acquainted with Latin prosody, have a great help towards properly placing the accent on those words which are generally of a Latin origin, as may be seen in the above examples; and in many other words of this nature in which the last syllable but one is short, in Latin as well as Italian.—2d, I have been careful to point out in my Grammar, the accent of the persons of verbs which might create any difficulty, as *amávano, sentíssero.* Attention alone is necessary to acquire the habit of properly placing the accent on all the conjugations of the verbs.—3d, The following rule is only for those who are not sufficiently well ac-

quainted with Latin, to make the application of its prosody to those words derived from that language, and others like them.

4th, The last syllable but one is commonly short in those words ending in *ábile* or *ácile*, in *ébile* or *évole*, in *íbile* *óbile* and *úbile*. Consequently the accent must be placed on the preceding syllable: Ex.:—*probábile*, *grácile*, *débole*, *piacévole*, *terríbile*, *nóbile*, *vólúbile*, &c. The same may be said of the terminations in *ástico* or *ático*, *ético*, *ífico*, *ónico*, or *órico*, *ústico*, or *úsico*, and the like. Ex.:—*scolástico*, *fanático*, *poético*, *scientífico*, *malincónico*, *istórico*, *rústico*, *músico*, *cerúsico*, &c. The feminine and plural of these nouns follow the same rule.*

In fine, to help the learner to put these

* This rule will be particularly felt by Frenchmen, who are led by their pronunciation to make a pause on several of these words, precisely on that syllable which is short in Italian and in Latin, and say *habile*, *difficile*, *scolastique*, *historique*, to which may be added, *origine*, *méthode*, and others, whilst we say in Italian *ábile*, *difficile*, *scolástico*, *istórico*, *origine*, *método*, &c.

rules into practice, I shall point out every accent, particularly in the six first pages of the Italian part: and, in the sequel, I shall only mark such words as may appear most difficult, in order to accustom the learner to make the application of the rules to the different words, and to well place the accent. Such is the object of this short dissertation.

With regard to the Italian pronunciation, I must observe, that although every translator is bound to render faithfully the thoughts of his author, still, for this purpose, he must employ the idiom and those turns best suited to his own language. A servile translation, and done word for word, would afford but a dull, and even insupportable elocution, especially when done from English into Italian. Now, although it very often occurs in discourse, that a short sentiment, such as an interrogation, must not be extended beyond its limits; yet it may be observed, that in sentences composed of several members linked together, and hanging upon one another, it is sometimes necessary to make a slight

transposition, or to insert some conjunction, in order to give the language more grace and accuracy, to render it more full and easy, according to the true genius of the language in which the translation is made. The reader, in this case, must not lose sight of the original, nor be contented with reading a single phrase, but go through the whole number.

I have, in my translation, thought proper to substitute pronouns to proper names, the two frequent use of which becomes tiresome, especially when the pronouns occasion no amphibology in the discourse.

Lastly, Tale II. No. 12, Part I. Ousanqua's speech :—I thought it incumbent on me to keep the same construction of verbs which I have found in the original, because it is the custom of the Eastern Nations, when they speak our languages, to employ mostly the infinitive instead of the different persons which compose the conjugations, and to say *voi essere*, you be; *io amare*, me love, &c. instead of *voi siete*, you are, *io amo*, I love, &c. which is not to be wondered at, as the Italian lan-

guage is generally known in the East, the Levant, and on the coast of Africa, as experience has shown of latter days; and in the Comedies of Moliere, examples of this frequently occur.

TALES

OF

THE HERMITAGE;

ENGLISH AND ITALIAN.

TALES OF THE HERMITAGE.

TALE THE FIRST.

Pride subdued by Adversity.

1. As Mrs. Cleveland was one Sunday morning going to pay her accustomed visit to a school which had been recently established for the poor inhabitants of the parish in which she resided, an elegant equipage drove briskly past her, and she heard a female voice cry out, "It is my aunt; I am convinced it is her!" and instantly the carriage stopped. A servant, who was on horseback, alighted, and, opening the door, two young ladies, the one about fifteen, and the other apparently a year younger, sprang out, and, running after Mrs. Cleveland, exclaimed—"surely, Ma'am, you cannot have forgotten Emma and Eliza!"

2. "My dearest girls, my beloved *nieces!*" replied the amiable Mrs. Cleveland, pressing them alternately to her heart, "how unexpected is this pleasure, and how delightful this unlooked for meeting! I did not indeed recollect you;

NOVELLE DEL ROMITAGGIO.

NOVELLA PRIMA.

L'orgóglio abbattúto dall' avversità.

1. Andáva la signóra Cleveland úna doménica mattina a fâre la súa sólita visita a úna scuóla di carità di fresco fondáta per i póveri délla parrôchia in cui éssa dimoráva, quándo le passó rapidaménte accánto úna vistósa carrózza, e sentí úna vóce di dónna gridáre: " ell'è mia zía, è déssa, ne son cérta:" e súbito si fermò la carrózza. Un sérvo smónta da cavállo, ed apérto lo sportéllo, ne sáltano fuóri dúe signorine. Una di ésse avéva quíndici ánni; e l'áltra mostráva fórse un anno méno: le quáli, corréndo vérso la signóra Cleveland, sclámano: " certaménte, signóra, non vi siéte scordáta di Emma e di Elisa."

2. " Mie cáre ragázze, amáte mie nipóti" replicò l'amábile signóra Cleveland, stringéndosele l'úna dópo l'áltra al séno " Che piacére inaspettáto! Qual felice ed improvviso incóntro è mai quésto! In verità non vi ho raffiguráte. Quattr'ánni, da che

for four years has made such an alteration in the little, ruddy, round-faced girls I parted from, that I should certainly have passed you without claiming a relationship. But where is Mr. Fitzhenry? and why do you travel without his protection?"

3. "Oh! this letter, aunt," replied Emma Fitzhenry, drawing a large packet from her pocket, "will explain every thing, and will put that affection to the test which you have so often told papa you had transferred from our dearest mother."

4. "If any thing was wanting to call forth that affection," said Mrs. Cleveland, "the strong resemblance you bear that dear lost angel would certainly be the means of doing it; but, Mr. Fitzhenry cannot pay me a higher compliment, or give me a higher gratification, than by placing you under my protection; and, if the time is proportioned to my wishes, we shall not separate very shortly: but, let us return to the Vale, my dear girls, for I am sure you must require some refreshment after such a fatiguing journey."

5. As soon as Mrs. Cleveland had ordered coffee, fruit, and cakes, for the accommodation of her guests, she retired to her apartment, to peruse the letter, which explained the motive of their visit, and there, to her utter astonishment, discovered that Mr. Fitzhenry had accepted the post of governor to one of the East India islands; and not knowing whether the situation would be advantageous for young women, had resolved

non vi ho vedúte, hánno fátto un tal cangiaménto sulle vóstre vermiglie e ritondétte fácce, che non mi sarébbe státo possíbile di riconóscervi per mie paréati. Ma dov'è il signór Fizheury; e cóme non è égli in vóstra compagnía?"

3. " Oh, signóra zía, riprése Emma Fizhenry, cavándosi di tásca un grand piégo, quésta léttera vi spiegherà ógni cósa e metterà álla próva l'affétto che portaváte álla nóstra cára mádre, e che, siccóme dicéste più vólte a nóstro bábbo, avéte rivólto in noi."

4. " Se d'alcúna cósa abbisognássi, per risvegliare in me questo affétto," disse la signóra Cleveland" altro non ci vorrébbe che la gran rassomigliánza che avéte con quell' angiolétta che non è più. Ma il signor Fizhenry non può fármi un favór più segnaláto, nè apportármi maggiór piacére, che coll' affidárvi alla mía cúra; e, se il témpo séconda i miei desidéri, non ci divideremo sí presto. Ma ritorniámo álla Válle, mie cáre ragázze; perchè son cérta, che dópo un sí faticóso viággio avréte bisógno di rinfrescárvi."

5. Cóme la signóra Cleveland ébbe ordináto caffè, frútte e pasticcíni per ristorare le sue óspiti, si ritirò nel súo appartaméuto per légger la léttera, che dáva ragióne di quésta vísita; e restò non póco sorprésa nell' intendere, che il signor Fizhenry avéva accettáto il pósto di governatóre in un' isola dell' Indie orientáli; e che, non sapéndo se quell' ária fósse per éster confac-

to leave them under Mrs. Cleveland's protection until, from personal observation, he had made the discovery.

6. This intelligence both astonished and pained Mrs. Cleveland, who began to apprehend that the accounts she had heard of her brother-in-law's extravagance, since the death of his amiable wife, were but too well founded, and imagined he was going abroad to retrieve a fortune which nothing but *gaming* could have materially *injured.*

7. Upon the death of Mrs. Fitzhenry, Mrs. Cleveland was very anxious to have the children under her care, but the father pretended he could not exist without their society. At first, he sent them to Queen's Square, and had them home every Saturday; but in less than six months he engaged a French governess for them, and they resided constantly with their father.

8. Mrs. Fitzhenry's woman, upon her death, had been promoted to the office of housekeeper; and it was from her pen that Mrs. Cleveland was informed of the uncommon splendor of Mr. Fitzhenry's establishment. Her nieces wrote sometimes, but it was evident the letters were the composition of the governess, and therefore they afforded her very little satisfaction.

9. Mrs. Cleveland was so astonished at the intelligence she had received, and so unable to account for it, that she remained longer in her dressing-room than she was aware of, and might

cévole a gióvani dónne, le avéva lasciáte sótto la cúra délla signóra Cleveland, finché se ne fósse chiarito da se.

6. Quésta novità sorprése insiéme ed afflísse la signóra Cleveland, la quále cominció a temére che fósse pur troppo véro ciò che érale státo détto intórno álle stravagánze fátte dal súo cognáto, dópo la mórte délla súa amábile consórte; e pensò che si fósse spatriáto, per rifársi délle sómme notábili, le quáli égli non potéva avér perdúto altriménti che al giuóco.

7. Dópo la mórte délla signóra Fizhenry, la signóra Cleveland bramáva assái d'avér séco le ragázze; ma non paréva al pádre di potér vivere sénza di ésse. Le míse da prima nélla pensióne di *Queen Square*, dónde andávano ógni sábato a cása: ma in méno di sei mési le riprése con se e diéde lóro un'ája francése.

8. Mórta la signóra Fizhenry, la di lei cameriéra fu fátta casiéra; e dálle súe léttere fu informáta la signóra Cleveland dello sfárzo straordinário che facéva il signór Fizhenry. Ricevétte pur ánche alcúne léttere dálle sué nipóti, ma ben si conoscéva che érano ésse compóste dall' Aja: il che dáva póco gústo álla zia.

9. La signóra Cleveland rimáse sì stordíta nell' inténdere quésta novità, sénza che ne potésse sapére il motivo, che si tratténne nel súo spogliatójo piú di quéllo che avrébbe volúto; e più

have extended her stay had she not been roused by a tap at the door.

10. "Well, aunt," said Eliza, as she entered, "what do you think of my father's East India scheme?"

11. "I think, my love," replied Mrs. Cleveland, "that *I am benefited* by it; and I hope you will not be *injured;* yet I confess myself astonished that a man with your father's fortune should quit his country and dearest connexions for the sake of augmenting it."

12. "He certainly has a large fortune, Ma'am," said Eliza; "but I am inclined to think he has injured it; and so Madam Lemoine imagined, and she knows more about it than I do." At that moment, Lady Luton's carriage drove up to the door, and Mrs. Cleveland hastened to receive her, and introduce her nieces.

13. As soon as dinner was ended, Mrs. Cleveland invited the Miss Fitzhenrys to accompany her to the Sunday school, informing them that she was going there in the morning, when their arrival had so pleasingly defeated her purpose.

14. "Sunday school! La, Ma'am!" said Emma, "why, I thought you had all been *too religious* at this distance from town, to work upon a Sunday! But fashion is wonderfully prevalent, and I suppose our card parties in London gave the first idea to the country boors of occupying a day which their forefathers devoted to psalm-singing and praying."

15. "I hope, Emma," replied Mrs. Cleve-

ancóra vi sarébbe restáta, se non fósse státa riscóssa da un picchio fátto álla pórta.

10. " Ebbéne," dísse Elísa entrándo, " Che pensáte, signóra zía dell' andáta di mío pádre all' Indie orientáli?"

11. " Pénso," mía cára, " che ío ne ricévo un gran piacére, e spéro che voi non ne staréte péggio. Tuttavía confésso che mi páre stráno, che un uómo ríco com'égli è, ábbia potúto risólversi a lasciáre il suo paése e i suoi più cári, pel desidério di arricchíre."

12. " Cérto, signóra, egli è ríco assái, dísse Elísa; ma mi dúbito che ábbia scapitáto; e così pénsa la signóra *Lemoine* la quále ne sa piú di me." In quésto si accostò álla porta la carrózza di milédi Luton: e la Signóra Cleveland scése immantinénti per ricéverla, e presentárle le súe nipóti.

13. Pranzáto che ébbero, la signóra Cleveland propóse álle signóre Fizhenry di venír séco álla scuóla délla Doménica, soggiungéndo, che colà appúnto s'era avviáta la mattína quándo ne fu con tánto súo piacére distólta dal lóro arrívo.

14. " La scuóla délla Doménica! Che sénto, signóra!" dísse Emma " Oh! ío mi credéva, che in un lúogo sí distánte dálla città, vi fósse più di religióne, per non lavorár la Doménica. Ma gran cósa è la móda; e pénso, che le partíte di cárte che facciámo a Lóndra, ábbiano dáto ai villáni la prima idéa di occupársi in un giórno, che i lóro antichi passávano nel salmeggiáre e néllà preghiéra."

15. " Non crèdo," riprése la signóra Cleve-

land, looking very grave, "your father thought you too young to be initiated into a vice destructive of principle, piety, and virtue."

16. "Dear Ma'am!" said Emma, "have you forgot how old I am! for I assure you I have presided at the card tables at least a year and a quarter."

17. Mrs. Cleveland lifted up her eyes in astonishment, and, after *explaining the nature* of Sunday schools, again inquired if they were inclined to accompany her.

18. "You are very polite, Ma'am," said Emma, looking rather embarrassed; "but as I cannot suppose we shall derive much entertainment from hearing a parcel of dirty children read and say their catechism, we will postpone our visit, if you please, until country air, rural occupations, and your example, have given us a relish for such amusements."

19. Mrs. Cleveland made no reply to this sarcastic speech; but, ordering the footman to have tea ready against her return, she put on her cloak, and walked towards the school house. The slight specimen she had received of her nieces dispositions was not calculated to impress her with a favourable idea of them; but, when she reflected upon their being the children of one of the most amiable women in the world, she attributed their little failings to an improper mode of education, and was forming a thousand schemes to counteract its baneful influence.

20. She made her visit to the Sunday school

land, recándosi sul gráve, " che vóstro pádre ábbia volúto avvezzárvi, gióvani cóme siéte, a un vízio distruttívo de princípj délla pietà e délla virtù."

16. Cára signóra, diss' Emma, vi siéte voi fórse scordáta délla mía età ? Chè sóno per cérto alméno quíndici mési che fo da cápo távola álle cárte."

17. La signóra Cleveland alzò gli ócchi al ciélo in átto di maravíglia; e, dópo avér lóro spiegáto ciò che éra *la scúola délla Doménica*, ridomandò lóro, se volévano venír séco.

18. Tróppa grázia " diss' Emma alquánto turbáta" ma, non so che gústo potrém noi avére, nel vedér úna bánda di ragázzi súdici stársi leggéndo e recitándo il catechísmo. Rimettíamo, se vi piáce, quésta vísita a un' áltra vólta. Intánto l'ária délla campágna, le occupazióni villerécce, e il vóstro buon esémpio ci daránno un po più di gústo per símili divertiménti.

19. Non féce alcúna réplica a un discórso sì pungénte la signóra Cleveland, ma dáto órdine al sérvo di tenér prónto il tè pel súo ritórno, e póstasi la mantellína, se n'andò álla scúola. Con questo píccolo sággio che di se dáto avéano le súe nipóti, non potè essa formárne un' idéa troppo vantaggiósa. Ma poi rifletténdo, ch' élleno érano figlie d'úna délle più compíte dónne del móndo, attribuì quésti diffettúcci a úna mal intesa educazióne, e andáva ravvolgéndo in cápo il módo di corréggere inclinazióni sì pernicióse.

20. Sbrigátasi éssa dálla súa vísita délla scuóla,

as short as possible, and the evening was passed in hearing an account of their manner of spending their time in Grosvenor Square. Without appearing to endeavour to find out their natural propensities, Mrs. Cleveland was at the greatest pains to make the discovery, and soon perceived that a love of grandeur, show, and distinction, were the leading features in Emma's character; but that Eliza's heart seemed more likely to be attracted by *interesting* than *glaring* objects; though she appeared to have no objection either to show or magnificence.

21. Upon taking leave of his daughters, Mr. Fitzhenry had presented each with a five hundred pound note for clothes and pocket money, with a promise of making them ample remittances, if they were not sent for to India.

22. Mrs. Cleveland's fortune was a very large one; and though she had hitherto lived materially within it, yet upon the arrival of her nieces she thought it right to alter her plan of œconomy; an extra man-servant was hired, a new carriage bespoke, and a farmer's daughter engaged as waiting-maid to the Miss Fitzhenrys.

23. Mrs. Cleveland was passionately fond of music, and played both with taste and execution upon the piano and harp, and was much disappointed at the tame style in which the young ladies performed upon those instruments, as she knew they had received instruction from the first masters. Some days they refused touching the instrument at all, and at others would not play

impiegò la seráta nel sentir lóro raccontáre cóme passávano il témpo méntre stávano a cása lóro in *Grosvenor square*. Non voléva la signora Cleveland parére di spiár le lóro inclinazióni: ébbe perciò la maggiór fatica del móndo a fárne la scopérta. Ma pur s'accôrse in fine, che il gústo dominánte di Emma si era di grandeggiáre, di comparíre, di brilláre; e le párve che Elísa fósse piuttósto portáta per le cóse reáli, che per le apparénti, sebbéne non fósse nemíca délla compársa e délla grandézza.

21. Nel prénder che féce commiáto il signór Fizhenry dálle súe figlie, avéva fatto regálo a ciascúna di ésse d'un bigliétto di cinquecénto líre per gli ábiti e spílli, prometténdo di far lóro délle buóne rimésse, in cáso che non avésse mandáto per ésse dall' Indie.

22. Era la signora Cleveland mólto facoltósa; e, sebbéne avésse fin allóro spéso il súo con mólta parsimónia; púre, dópo l'arrivo délle sue nipóti, stimó di dovérsi alquánto allargáre nélla spésa: aggiúnse un sérvo álla súa famíglia; ordinò una nuóva carrózza, e diéde per cameriéra álle signóre Fizhenry la figlia del súe fattóre.

23. Avéva éssa úna gran passióne per la música e suonáva maestrevolménte il fórte-piáno e l'árpa. Ora, sapéndo avér ésse imparáto quégl' istroménti da' primi maéstri, fu mólto sorprésa nel sentirle suonáre sénza gárbo nè grázia. In cérti giórni non volévano toccáre affátto úno stroménto; in cert' áltri non suonávano più d'un quárto d'óra per vólta. Da princípio le lasciò

more than a quarter of an hour at a time. Mrs. Cleveland at first suffered them to indulge in a listless inactivity; but finding their indolent habits rather *increase* than diminish, she informed them it was her wish that they should devote their mornings to *improvement;* and as she was very well versed in history, geography, Italian, and French, she would be their instructress in any of those branches, and read such authors with them as she thought most edifying.

24. "Dear Ma'am," said Emma, with a great deal of pertness in her tone of voice, "I am sure my father never intended to *depute you our governess;* and indeed we were so *thoroughly informed,* by Madam Lemoine, that there is very little left for us to learn."

25. "I am very happy to hear it," replied Mrs. Cleveland; "then there is a great deal for you to *lose,* and that would be terrible, after so much pains have been taken with you: but do, my dear, walk into the library, and fetch the first volume of Metastasio; he is a favourite author of mine, and I wish to hear you read him.

26. "*I hate Italian,*" said Emma, "and Eliza reads it better than I do; so fetch the book, Eliza."

27. "If you read it *ill,*" replied Mrs. Cleveland gravely, "there is the greater necessity for your reading it *often;* besides, my dear Emma, I am always *obeyed* by every part of my family;—and, surely, a girl of fifteen would not think of disputing a *rule* that's positive."

andáre a secónda délla lóro infingardággine: ma vedéndo che l'indolénza, in vece di scemáre, s'andáva accrescéndo, féce lóro inténdere ésser súa intenzióne, che s'applicássero la mattina ad instruírsi; e che, sapéndo éssa béne la stória, la geografía, l'italiáno e 'l francése, avrébbe lóro insegnáto alcúna di quéste cóse e lêtto con ésso loro l'autóre che avrébbe stimáto più confacénte al lóro avanzaméuto.

24. "Cára signora," diss' Emma in un módo mólto rissentíto, "io son cérta che l'intenzióne di mio pádre non è mai státa, che élla ci facésse da àja; e, di fátti, abbiámo tanto imparáto con Madàma *Lemoine*, che póco più ci rimáne a sapère."

25. "Me ne rallégro con voi," replicò la signóra Cleveland: "ma in quésto cáso avéte mólto da pérdere: il che sarébbe un gran dánno, dópo che avéte duráto tánta fatica. Ma, di grázia, mia cára, andáte nélla libreria a préndere il primo tómo del Metastásio: égli è il mio autóre favoríto; ed avrò cáro di sentírvi léggere."

26. "Odio l'italiáno," diss' Emma "ed Elisa légge méglio di me: così andáte, Élisa, per ésso."

27. "Se leggéte mále," replicò la signóra Cleveland, recándosi sul gráve, "avéte bisógno di léggerlo più spésso. Per áltro, mía cára Émma, io sóglio essér ubbidita in cása mía; e cérto, una ragázza di quíndici anni non dovrébbe oppórsi a úna proposizióne tánto ragionévole."

28. Emma walked into the library, fetched the book, and began reading; but her tone was so monotonous, her accents so misapplied, and her pronunciation so improper, that Mrs. Cleveland could not bear to hear her proceed; and, taking the book from her hand, said—"I am much obliged to you, my dear, for attempting to amuse me, and am sorry to say what may appear discouraging; but certainly Madam Lemoine was perfectly ignorant of the Italian language. I happen to be very fond of it, and had one of the first masters; and if you will take the trouble of attending to my pronunciation, you will easily discover the imperfection of your own."

29. "I am much obliged, Ma'am, by your kind attention;" said Emma, "but as I really have no passion for knowledge, and happen to possess so large a fortune as to render it unnecessary for me to take the trouble of attending to those accomplishments which girls in less elevated stations are *taught* to *consider necessary*, I must beg leave to decline your *offered instruction*."

30. Mrs. Cleveland could hardly credit the evidence of her senses while she listened to her niece's improper manner of replying to her friendly proposal, and before she could express her disapprobation, the footman entered, and delivered into her hands the following letter:

31. "MY DEAR SISTER,

"Tortured by remorse, and overwhelmed by despair, how shall I acquaint you with the

28. S'avviò Emma verso la libreria, prése il libro e cominciò a léggere: ma ciò faceva con tal monotonía, senz' accento e con sì cattiva pronunzia, che, la signora non poténdola più soffe-rire, le prese il libro di mano, dicendo: " Vi son molto obbligata, mia cara, della condescen-denza che avete avuta per me, ma mi spiace di dirvi una cósa che potrebbe forse scoraggirvi, ed è che Madama *Lemoine* non sa punto l'ita-liano. Io, per buona sorte, c' ho molto gusto, ed ho imparato da uno de primi maestri; e, se volete darvi la pena di badare alla mia pro-nunzia, conoscerete ben presto quanto ella sia dalla vostra diversa."

29. " Mille grazie, signora, di tanta cortesía," diss' Emma, " ma io non mi sento punto inclinata per lo stúdio; e, trovandomi io agiata a suffi-cienza, non ho bisogno di tormentarmi per far acquisto di simili ornamenti, che le ragazze d'una sfera più bassa sógliono risguardare come ne-cessari: però vi prego di dispensarmi dal ricevere le vostre istruzioni."

30. Poteva appena credere a ciò che udíva la signora Cleveland, e che sua nipote potesse rispóndere sì villanamente a una proposizione tanto amichevole. Ma, mentre stava pensando al modo di corréggerla, eccoti entrare un servo, che le consegna la seguente lettera.

31. " Carissima Cognata,

" Tormentato come sono dai rimorsi e ridotto alla disperazione, come potrò io celarvi una

dreadful intelligence that, sooner or later, must reach your knowledge!

32. "I cannot with prolixity prepare you for being acquainted with my calamity; but must briefly inform you, that *I am ruined!* Oh, my children! how will you bear to hear the horrid *truth!* Fostered in luxury, encouraged in expense, how will you be enabled to sustain this fatal blow, which levels you with the needy, the unfortunate, and the beggar!

33. "I saw the precipice on which I tottered, and yet had not resolution to avoid its brink! My motive for accepting the East India employment proceeded from a knowledge of my embarrassed affairs. I sold my estates with a view of placing their produce in the funds, that, in case of my death, my girls might receive their fortunes without trouble or inconvenience, and this morning's sun saw me the master of sixty thousand pounds; a sum which many people would have thought *immense:* but to me, who had squandered three times its value at the gaming-table, it appeared little better than poverty. In an evil hour, I resorted to the spot from which I had dated my *former misfortunes,* and there, alas! completed them.

34. "I have sent in a resignation of my India post, and shall hide my head in some obscure corner of the globe, and end my days in poverty and repentance!

35. "Do not attempt writing to me, for I am not in a frame of mind to *support pity,* or *sub-*

terribil nuova di cui sareste tosto o tardi informata?

32. " Non posso usar preludj per disporl'animo vostro a ricéverla, mi vi dico in due parole che *son rovinato*. Oh mie figlie! come potrete voi reggere a questa orribil verità? Allevate nel lusso, avvezze a largheggiar nelle spese, come vi riuscirà di sostenére questo fatal colpo, che vi riduce al bisogno, alla miséria, alla mendicità!

33. " Vidi il precipizio, sull' orlo del quale io m'andava aggirando, ma non ebbi animo di allontanarmene. Conoscendo io lo stato critico de' miei affari, mi risolsi di accettare l'impiégo dell' Indie Orientali. Ho venduto i miéi beni con intenzione d'impiegarne il denaro nei fondi, acciocchè, in caso di morte, potéssero le mie figlie godérsi pacificamente le loro entrate. Quando mi sono alzato questa mattina, io era padrone di sessanta mila lire, somma che a molti parrebbe grandissima, ma, a me, che ne aveva mandato a male tre volte più al giuoco, pareva quasi un nulla. Per mia malora son ritornato al luogo che era stato il principio delle mie disgrázie, ed ivi, oimè! mi so nabissato.

34. " Ho rinunziato al mío impiego dell' Indie e vo a nascóndermi in qualche oscuro ángolo del mondo, per colà finire i miei giorni nella miséria e nel cordóglio.

35. " Non occorre che mi scriviate, perchè il mio spírito non è capace di ricévere nè solliéve

mit to censure. Protect my children for their dear mother's sake, and teach them to abhor a practice which has for ever destroyed the peace of their unhappy father,

"ADOLPHUS FITZHENRY."

36. The Fitzhenry arms attracted Eliza's attention, and the changes in Mrs. Cleveland's countenance, while she was perusing the letter, called forth her fears.

37. "Is my father ill, Ma'am?" she exclaimed; "or what can he have said to occasion you to appear so agitated?"

38. "Your father is *quite well*, my love," replied Mrs. Cleveland: at the same time bursting into a flood of tears, she uttered in a low tone of voice—"Poor girls! Poor girls!"

39. Emma and Eliza overheard the expression, and, looking at each other with curiosity and astonishment, seemed each afraid of requesting an explanation.

40. The sentiments which Emma had expressed just before the arrival of the fatal letter, convinced Mrs. Cleveland, that the loss of fortune would, in her opinion, be the greatest of all earthly calamities: and the little satisfaction they had both testified in a life of quiet and rationality, at once proved their passion for dissipation, gaiety, and expense.

41. Had there been a probability of their feeling happy in their altered mode of life, Mrs. Cleveland would never have repined at their father's

nè rimpróveri. Abbiate cura delle mie figlie per amor della loro madre, ed insegnate loro ad abborrire un vizio che non lascerà mai più aver pace al loro infelicissimo padre.

" ADOLFO FIZHENRY."

36. Il sigillo di casa Fizhenry risvegliò la curiosità di Elisa, lo quale si sbigottì nell' osservare, come la signora Cleveland si cangiava in viso, leggendo la léttera.

37. " E forse ammalato mio padre?" sclamò essa; " o, che può egli avervi scritto, che mi parete tanto agitata?"

38. " Vostro padre sta benissimo, mia cara," rispóse la signora Cleveland, e nello stesso tempo proruppe in un dirottissimo pianto, dicendo sottovoce, " póvere fagazze! póvere ragazze!"

39. Intésero Emma ed Elisa queste parole; e guatándosi l'una l'altra con uno stupóre misto di curiosità, pareva che non osássero domandárgliene la spiegazione.

40. I sentimenti dimostrati da Emma prima che giungesse la fatál léttera, dávano del tutto a conóscere alla signora Cleveland, che essa risguardava la pérdita dei beni come la maggior disgrázia del mondo; e dal poco gusto che ambedúe mostráto avéano per una vita tranquilla e conforme alla ragione, si scorgeva quanto stesse loro a cuore la dissipazione, l'allegría e lo scialaquare.

41. Se si fossero esse mostrate contente della loro nuova maniéra di vivere, la signora Cleveland non sarebbe stata tocca sì forte dalla disgrázia

misfortunes, but would rather have rejoiced in being enabled to prove her affection, and convince them of her friendship; but the idea of daily beholding their dissatisfaction, and hearing them pine after lost pleasures, was an evil she looked forward to with dread and apprehension, and she resolved to adopt a plan, which at that moment struck her, as being likely to reconcile them to their future residence.

42. Eliza at length had courage to entreat her aunt to explain the cause of her anxiety; and if they could not remove it, to let them have the satisfaction of sharing it.

43. "*Share it*, indeed, my dear girl!" said Mrs. Cleveland; "would to Heaven I could exempt you from that *misfortune!* for, heavy as it falls *upon me*, you are still more affected by its weight."

44. "Gracious Heaven!" exclaimed Emma, "what can have happened! I beseech you, aunt, ease me of this suspense! Surely," she continued, in a voice scarcely articulate, "my father has not *materially injured* his fortune at the *gaming table?*"—Mrs. Cleveland shook her head without replying. "Oh, dreadful!"—she continued: "but, dear madam, the estates! surely the estates are left for Eliza and myself?"—Another shake of Mrs. Cleveland's head convinced her *that hope* was without foundation; and, unable to sustain the weight of such an unexpected misfortune, she gave a violent scream, and went into a strong hysteric.

del loro padre, anzi sarébbesi in certo modo rallegrata di ésser in grado di dar loro una prova del vivo affetto che loro portava: ma, vedendole ogni giorno più scontente sospirar dietro ai perduti piacéri, questo le diéde tal timore ed apprensione, che si risolse di métter in opera un progetto che allora le venne in capo, l'esecuzione del quale avrebbe potuto in séguito rénder loro quel soggiorno meno dispiacévole.

42. Finalmente Elisa si fece ánimo, e pregò sua zia di voler palesar loro il motivo del suo affanno; affinché, se non potévano alleggerírlo, avéssero almeno la soddisfazione di ésserne a parte.

43. "Esserne a parte? Davvéro, mia ragazza," disse la signora Cleveland, "volesse il Cielo che io potessi esentarvi da questa disgrazia! poichè, per grave che a me sembri questo colpo, l'avete a sentír voi più assái di me."

44. "Dio buono!" sclamò Emma, "che sarà mai questo? Di grázia, signora zía, togliétemi da questa incertezza." Poi, articolando a gran fatica la parola, disse: "forse mio padre ha fatto qualche gran pérdita al giuoco?"—La signora Cleveland dimenava il capo, soggiungendo:" che orróre! "l'altra continuò:" ma, cara signora, e i beni? Di certo sono essi rimasti a Elisa e a me."—Una nuova scossa di capo le fece compréndere che érano iti. Allora Emma, non potendo più réggere alla forza d'un colpo sì inaspettato, dato un acuto strido, fu sorprésa da violenti moti istérici.

45. In that situation she was conveyed to her room, and, as soon as she recovered, Mrs. Cleveland attempted to reconcile her to her misfortunes by those arguments which religion suggested, and reason approved; and, after having in vain endeavoured to convince her that none but the *wicked* were *completely unhappy*, she retired to her own apartments to reflect upon the scheme she was resolved to adopt.

46. When the dinner hour arrived, both Emma and Eliza requested to be excused attending, and a roast chicken was sent into their own room. Mrs. Cleveland ordered tea up stairs, and was happy to observe that her nieces countenances appeared more cheerful and resigned than she had ventured to hope or expect.—As a prelude to the intelligence she purposed to convey, she began expatiating upon the uncertainty of sublunary enjoyments, and the folly of placing happiness upon worldly pleasures:—"For my own part," said she, "I had indulged the hope of spending my days in this peaceful retirement, and, by contributing all in my power to the relief of others wants, insure to myself a portion of internal felicity; but the scene is now changed, and my fortune demands a different mode of life. Your father's imprudence has involved *me* in *difficulties*, and I purpose retiring to some cheap spot, where upon a trifling income, I may still have the satisfaction of being useful to my fellow-creatures."

47. Mrs. Cleveland might have proceeded without interruption, for hours in the same strain,

45. In questo stato ella fu portata nella sua cámera, e, come si riebbe, la signora Cleveland si diede à consolarla con argomenti tratti dalla religione e confermati dalla ragione; e, dopo essersi in vano adoperata per provarle, che *solo i cattivi sono veramente infelici*, si ritirò nel suo appartamento, per riflettere al partito che aveva risoluto di pigliare.

46. Venúta l'òra del pranzo, Emma ed Elisa pregárono la signora Cleveland di volérnele dispensare e fu lóra mandato in cámera un arrosto di polli. Essa fece portare il tè nel loro appartamento; ed ebbe la soddisfazione di trovar le sue nipoti rassegnate e contente più di quello che si poteva aspettare.—Per introdùrsi nel discorso che s'era proposta di fare, cominciò dal ragionar loro in generale dell' incertezza dei diletti di quà giù, e della follia di coloro, che ne' mondani piacéri pongono la loro speranza.— "In quanto a me," diss' ella, mi lusingava di potér passare i miei giorni in questo tranquillo soggiorno, godéndomi di quella interna contentezza che nasce dall' assistere e provvedére secondo le próprie forze ai bisogni altrúi. Ma ora s'é cangiata la scena e mi conviene intrapréndere un nuovo génere di vita. L'imprudenza di vostro padre m'ha messa nell' imbarazzo; ed ho in ánimo di ritirarmi in qualche luogo di poca spesa, per avér il piacere di potér giovare al mio próssimo eziandío con una ténue entrata."

47. La signora Cleveland avrebbe potuto continúar più ore in simili discorsi senza ésserne

so petrified were they with astonishment, and so shocked at finding that their father's imprudence had injured the only person from whom they had a right to expect either friendship, affection, or support.

48. Mrs. Cleveland then proceeded to inform them, that she had long wished to make an excursion into Wales, but from want of society she had delayed it; "and now," said she, "*prudence*, instead of *pleasure*, will compel me to gratify my inclinations; for I intend taking up my residence in that cheap quarter of the world. I shall offer my house to Lady Luton, who is going to put Castle Luton into a thorough repair, and has only deferred it until she could meet with a residence in the neighbourhood."

49. Again she intreated them to support their misfortunes with fortitude and resignation, assuring them that happiness had its seat in the *mind*, and depended much less upon outward circumstances than people were apt to imagine.

50. In less than a fortnight every thing was arranged for their Welsh excursion, and, at the request of her nieces, Mrs. Cleveland consented to take the name of Owen, to prevent the possibility of any person discovering the real situation of their affairs.

51. Just at the time of Mrs. Cleveland's quitting the Vale, a putrid fever broke out amongst Lady Luton's servants; three of them died, and the rest went home, for change of air, after their recovery. This circumstance induced her friend

interrotta, tanto érano esse stordite e abbattute, pensando che l'imprudenza del loro padre andava a ferire la sola persona che avéssero al mondo amica, ben affetta e capace di assisterle.

48. Quindi seguitò essa a dire, che, già da lungo tempo avéa voglia di fare una gita nel *Wales* ma che aveva differito per mancanza di compagnia: "ora poi," soggiunse, "la prudenza più che il piacere m'obbliga a contentare il mio génio, e son risolúta di fissare la mia dimora in quella contrada sì poco dispendiosa. Proporrò la mia casa a Miledi *Luton* la quale, volendo risarcire il suo castello, altro non aspetta che di trovarsi un appartamento nel vicinato."

49. Le riconforto póscia a sopportare con rassegnazione e fortezza le loro disgrázie, affermando che la felicità risiède nell' ánimo; e che le cose esteriori vi contribuiscono meno assái di quello che si dà a crédere il volgo.

50. In meno di quíndici giorni ogni cosa fu all' órdine, per l'andata nel Wales; e la signora Cleveland per compiacére alle sue nipoti, cangiò il suo nome in quello di *Owen*, affinché niuno venisse a scoprire il vero stato de' loro affari.

51. Mentre stava essa per partire dalla Valle, una febbre pútrida s'apprese trà i famigliari di Miledi Luton. Tre di essi morírono, e gli altri che si riébbero, andárano a mutár árìa alle case loro. Per la qual cosa la signora Cleve-

to intreat she would make use of her's, and Emma and Eliza imagined they were hired by her Ladyship. The singularity of travelling in a post chaise seemed likely to create great surprise to Mrs. Cleveland's neighbours and servants, and, to prevent conjecture, she said she was going to pass six months at one of Mr. Fitzhenry's country seats, and should neither want carriage nor servants.

52. Nothing material occurred during the journey, and, at the expiration of the fourth day, they arrived at Barmouth in good health and tolerable spirits.

53. Mr. Pratt's description of the scenery around, and the simplicity of the manners of its inhabitants, was the inducement for fixing upon that spot; and Mrs. Owen (as she was then to be called) met with a small house close to the sea side, which she immediately hired; and the Miss Fitzhenrys, who had hitherto been accustomed to live in a house large enough for a palace, were now inhabitants of a mere cottage, with one maid and a boy to attend them.

54. The absolute poverty of the peasantry around Barmouth afforded ample scope for the indulgence of Mrs. Owen's benevolent disposition; and the heartfelt gratitude which the poor creatures expressed for the slightest donation proved at once both their *worth* and *want*.

55. Without amusement to occupy their time, or company to engage their attention, Emma and Eliza naturally sought relief from those avo-

land la pregò di volér ricévere i suoi servi; ed Emma ed Elisa si credéttero che dovéssero essi rimanérsi con Miledi. Pareva che la maniera straordinária di viaggiare in una sédia di posta, avesse a dar nell' ócchio ai vicini e a' servi della signora Cleveland; che però essa, per evitar le dicerie, disse, che se n'andava a passar sei mesi a una villa del signor Fizhenry, e che non avrebbe bisogno nè di carrozza, nè di servi.

52. Nulla di notábile accadde nel loro viággio, ed arrivárono la sera del quarto giorno à Barmouth in buona sabate e sufficiente calma di spírito.

53. La descrizione pittoresca che fece il signor Pratt di que' contorni e della semplicità de' costumi di quegli abitanti, indusse la signora Owen (che così era allóra chiamata la signora Cleveland) a fissar ivi la sua stanza Trovò una casetta presso al mare e l'appigionò incontanente; e le signore Fizhenry avvezze fin allora a vivere in una gran casa símile a un palazzo, si vídero abitatrici d'un tugúrio, servíte da una giovane e da un ragazzo.

54. Lo stato reale di povertà in cui vivéano i contadini nei contorni di Barmouth diede molto che fare al génio benéfico della signora Owen; e la viva gratitúdine che quei poverini le dimostrávano per doni anche di poco riliévo, dava a conóscere quanto fóssero essi ben impiegati.

55. Non avendo Emma ed Elisa cosa o persóna con cui spassarsi, andávano da se stesse in cerca di que' tratenimenti che prima disprezzávano; e

cations they had once despised, and reading and drawing became favourite amusements. The country round Barmouth was picturesque in the highest degree, and in rambling between the rocks, or climbing up the hills, the Park and Kensington-gardens were both forgotten. The winter months at length approached, and Emma expressed her dread of the dreariness and gloom which would attend the tedious evenings; and expressed an earnest desire for a piano-forte.

56. "Well," said Mrs. Owen, "I will examine my purse, and if I can any way contrive it, your inclination shall be gratified; but I have this morning promised to take little Sally Burford, the fisherman's child, whom I observed had attracted both your's and Eliza's notice, and she will afford you some amusement."

57. "Oh, a little angel!" said Emma, "did you ever see so complete a beauty, aunt?"

58. "She is uncommonly lovely, indeed," replied Mrs. Owen; but it was not her *charms* that interested me: there are *seven children*, and it is with the utmost difficulty the poor man is enabled to support them, notwithstanding those who are old enough do something towards maintaining themselves: yet the poor creatures are so contented with their situation, and so resigned to the decree of Providence, that I felt it a *duty* to endeavour to relieve them; and as I perceived you were partial to little Sally, I preferred taking her to any of the others, though

la lettura e'l disegno divénnero il loro passatempo favorito. Erano i contorni di Barmouth oltre modo pittoreschi; ed esse, a forza di andar attorno elle rocche e di abbricarsi sulle loro cime, si scordárono ben presto del parco e del giardino di *Kensington*. Finalmente, vedendo già accostarsi l'inverno, diss' Emma, che si sgomentava nel pensare all'oscurità e lunghézza di quelle triste serate; e si mostrò bramosa d'avére un forte-piano.

56. "Bene" disse la signora Owen, "mi consiglierò colla mia borsa; e se c'è modo, sarete soddisfatta. Ma ho promesso questa mattina di prendere in casa la piccola Sara Burford figlia del pescatore, la quale mi pare che vada molto a sangue a voi due: essa potrà darvi qualche spasso."

57. "Oh! che angiolina!" diss' Emma, "avete voi mai veduto, mia zia, una bellezza sì compita?"

58. "Certo" replicò la signora Owen," ell' è carina carina: non mi sarei però indotta a far questo, se non fossero i sette figlinóli, cui, il póver' uomo, può a gran pena provvedér il pane, non ostante che alcuni di essi già grandicelli, guadágnino qualche cosa. E poi, sono quei poverini sì contenti del loro stato e sì rassegnati ai volèri della provvidenza, che mi credo in dovére, di assisterli quanto posso. Aggiungéndosi a questo l'inclinazione particolare che avete verso la piccola Sara, io la preferisco a

63. Music, reading, drawing, and geography, alternately occupied their leisure hours; and the engaging prattle of the little Sally was at once an antidote against dullness, and a source of entertainment.

64. Mrs. Owen's kindness was not confined to the Burfords only, and the prevalence of example induced the nieces to become charitable.

65. Upon the first discovery of Mr. Fitzhenry's ruined situation, Emma and Eliza delivered their five hundred pound notes into their aunt's hands, who placed them in the bank for their future use, promising to allow them thirty pounds a year for pocket-money. Small as that sum then appeared, they found it more than sufficient for all their wants; and they were enabled not only to show their generosity to Sally's father and mother, but to be essentially kind to several other poor families.

66. They had resided very near a twelvemonth in their little cottage, when Mrs. Owen began to feel a wish to return to a spot which was so dear to her on many accounts; and, convinced that her nieces had entirely conquered their love of pleasure and dissipation, she began to think it wrong to deprive them of those innocent amusements it was so natural for them to sigh for: she, therefore, determined to make them acquainted with the real situation of her affairs, and explain her motive for having acted with so much duplicity.

67. Scarcely had Mrs. Owen formed this

63. Per tanto la música, la lettura, il disegno, la geografía érano a vicenda le loro occupazioni e la Sara colle sue piacevoli chiácchere serviva loro non solo di antídoto contro la noja, ma ancora di dilettévole ricreazione.

64. La cortesía della signora non si limitava alla famiglia Burford; e da essa imparárono le sue nipoti ad esser caritatévoli.

65. Come Emma ed Elisa riséppero che il loro padre era rovinato, rimísero alla loro zia i biglietti di cinquecento lire. Essa impiegò quel denáro nel banco, a loro profitto; e promise di dar loro trenta lire annue per gli spilli. Per piccola che paresse questa somma, riuscì più che sufficiente per tutti i loro bisogni, di modo che si mostrávano generose non solo coi genitori di Sara, ma assistévano anche di fatti parécchie altre famiglie.

66. Passato che ébbero forse dódici mesi nella loro casetta, la signora Owen si sentì invogliata di tornársene alla sua, per tante ragioni, diletta abitazione; e vedendo che le sue nipoti già éransi spogliate dell' amore che portávano ai piaceri e alla dissipazione, stimò di non dovérle più a lungo privare di quegli spassi innocenti a cui érano naturalmente inclinate. Però si risolse di dar loro a conóscere lo stato reale de' suoi affari ed i motivi che l'avévano indotta ad ésser con esse tanto riserbata.

67. Appena aveva essa formato questo disegno,

resolution, when both the young ladies entered the room where she was sitting, and, with countenances expressive of the tenderest sympathy, informed her that poor Burford, in jumping from his boat to the shore, had struck his foot against a stone, and, in endeavouring to save himself from falling, had by some means or other twisted his leg, and displaced his kneepan:—"And now," said Eliza, "those poor children must absolutely be *starved*; for it is impossible their mother can earn enough to support them!"

68. "Oh! we must all contribute our mite," said Mrs. Owen, "and prevent so dreadful a calamity as you seem to apprehend, my love; but whilst I lament poor Burford's misfortune, I congratulate myself at perceiving that your hearts are susceptible both of tenderness and humanity, and that apathy and indifference are never to become inmates of your breast! To describe," continued this amiable woman, "the gratification I experience at beholding the pleasing alteration that has taken place both in your sentiments and manners is impossible; and I think your angelic mother (had she been in existence) could not have felt more joy and pride in owning you for her daughters, than I do in declaring that, though I bear not the maternal name, my heart is alive to all its feelings, and that I anticipate the liveliest satisfaction in the prospect of presenting you to the world as my adopted children, and joint-heiresses to eighty thousand pounds!"

che entrárono nella di lei cámera le due signorine, e, mostrando in viso i téneri sentimenti del loro ánimo, le ragguagliárono, che il povero Burford, saltando dal suo battello sulla riva, avea inciampato in una pietra, e che, divincolándosi, senza sapérsi come, per non cadére, érasi sforzato un piede ed aveva la rótola slogata." ed ora, disse Elisa, " quei poveri figliuoli morranno di fame senza compenso, perchè é impossibile che la loro madre possa guadagnár tanto che basti per mantenérli."

68. " Oh ! un po per una, mie care," disse la signora Owen " e non morranno. Ma, quanto mi affligge la disgrázia del povero Burford, altrettanto mi consóla il ravvisar in voi sentimenti di umanità e di compassione; e spero che non avranno più luogo nel cuór vostro l'insensibilità e l'indolenza. Non potréi esprimervi, " soggiunse quest' amábil donna," il contento che provo, nel considerare il piacévole cambiamento che si è fatto nel vostro módo di pensare e di operare; e credo, che quella bell' ánima di vostra madre, se vivesse, non potrebbe risentire maggiór contentezza e soddisfazione d'avérvi per figlie, di quello che fo io nell' assicurarvi che, sebbéne non vi sia madre, ne porto tuttavía in cuore i sentimenti e la tenerezza; e perciò vi prevengo col mássimo mio piacere, che, per introdurvi nel mondo, vi adotto per mie figlie e per coerédi di ottanta mila lire."

69. "Heiresses!" exclaimed Eliza.—"Eighty thousand pounds!" said Emma, "What *new change*, my dear aunt, has fortune yet in store for us?"

70. "There is nothing *new in this*, my dear girl," said Mrs. Cleveland; (for I shall no longer style her by the name of Owen) "for, soon after I had the misfortune of losing your amiable mother, I made my will, and, except a few trifling legacies, left my whole fortune between yourself and sister."—She then explained her reasons for having imposed upon their credulity, and then, tenderly embracing them, said, "After having spent a year at Barmouth, in solitude and seclusion, I have no reason to apprehend you will complain of the dullness of Cleveland Vale; but, had you been stationed there immediately after your removal from Grosvenor Square, I am convinced that the difference of the scene would have created disgust and dissatisfaction; and, instead of having the gratification of perceiving you were *happy* in *my society*, and contented with my mode of life, I should have been rendered miserable by murmers and complainings. "Your sentiments and ideas have happily now taken a different turn; you have felt *adversity*, and know how to pity it; you have acquired a habit of amusing yourselves without the *aid of variety*, or the *arts of dissipation*; and you will return to the world in a temper of mind calculated to *enjoy* its *pleasures* with *moderation*, and to support its disappointments with reason and resignation.

69. " Eredi !" sclamò Elisa : " d'ottanta mila lire !" replicò Emma ! " E qual nuova providenza di cose è ella codesta, mi cara zia ?"

70. " Non c'è in questo novità alcuna, mía cara, riprese la signora Cleveland, che d'ora in poi non sarà più chiamata *Owen* ;" perciocchè, non sì tosto ebbi la disgrazia di pérder la vostra diletta madre, che feci testamento, e, da alcuni legatúcci in fuóri, institutii voi due sole, eredi di tutti i miei beni. " Si diede quindi a dichiarar loro i motivi della passata sua dissimulazione, e, teneramente abbracciátele, soggiunse :" ora che avete passato un anno a Barmouth nella solitúdine e nel ritiro, non ho più a temére, che la rusticheza della Valle di Cleveland sia per infastidirvi : ma se, nel lasciar che faceste la piazza di Grosvenor, aveste ivi fissato la vostra dimora, son certa che la mutazione di scena sarébbevi troppo rincresciuta, é che io, in vece di vedérvi liete in mia compagnia e contente del mio modo di vivere, sarei stata del continuo amareggiata dal vostro borbottio e dalle vostre lagnanze. Per buona sorte avete provato l'avversità e sapete compatire : vi siéte avvezzate a divertirvi senza tanta varietà e senza passatempi troppo ricercati. Così rientrerete nel mondo con uno spírito acconcio a goderne con moderazione i piaceri e a tollerarne con saviezza le contrarietà."

71. "Oh, my dearest Madam," said Emma," how can we ever deserve your kindness, or merit your indulgence! but for your friendship how unpleasing must have been our conduct, and how despicable our characters! You not only instructed us to be amiable, but by your own example *invited* us to be so likewise; and if ever, upon my return to the gay world, I feel a propensity to be vain, or an inclination to become proud, I will think of Barmouth, and again grow humble."

72. "You are a dear girl," said Mrs. Cleveland, "and I every day have the satisfaction of finding something new to love and admire in you. The imperfections you formerly discovered were solely the effects of *bad example*, and ill advisers: your governess, of whom you had so high an opinion, attended only to *superficial accomplishments*, whilst the improvement of the heart was wholly unattended to: but come, my dear girls, let us go to the cottage, and see what we can do for poor Burford."

73. The unfortunate man was in such acute agony that Mrs. Cleveland was fearful the bone was broken; however, the next morning she had the satisfaction of finding that the fomentation she had ordered had abated the swelling, procured ease, and convinced Burford that the bone was whole. The poor fellow heard of her intention of quitting Barmouth with the most unfeigned sorrow, which not even the promise of an annual

71. " Oh, carissima signora," diss' Emma, " e come potrém noi meritare la vostra cortesía ed amorevolezza, dopo aver corrisposto con modi sí spiacévoli e dispettosi al vostro affetto? Voi non solamente ci avete insegnato la vera gentilezza, ma ce n'avete invogliate col vostro esémpio. Che se, nel ritornar che fo nel mondo allégro s'affacciásse giammai alla mente qualche sentimento di vanità o d'orgóglio, son certa, che in ripensando a Barmouth, egli se n'andrà."

72. " Che siáte benedetta!" riprese la signora, " voi mi date ogni giorno il piacere di ammirare in voi qualche nuova e amábile qualità. Le vostre passate imperfezioni non furono altro che un effetto del mal esémpio e de' cattivi consigli. La vostr' Aja di cui faceváte tanta stima, non ha pensato che a far di voi dei bellimbusti e non ha badato punto a coltivár il cuore. Ma andiamo a vedére, mie care ragazze, se si può dar qualche sollievo al pôvero Burford."

73. Si trovava il cattivello in tale angóscia, che la signora Cleveland temette, che l'osso fosse rotto. Tuttavía, la mattina seguente ella ebbe il piacér di vedere, che per vía di certi fomenti da esse ordinati, la parte era disenfiata, e il malato tranquillo; e l'assicurò che l'osso non aveva patito. Udendo il poverino, che essa avea risolúto di lasciar Barmouth, fu sorprese da un tal cordóglio, che la promessa da

allowance of ten pounds a year was able to controul.

74. Lady Luton was apprised of her friend's intended return, about a month after her own house was completed, and the servants were almost wild with joy at the prospect of again beholding a mistress whom they both loved and venerated. Although Mrs. Cleveland had deputed Lady Luton the almoner of her bounty during her absence, yet there was something in her manner of bestowing it, that made them sigh for the return of her who augmented kindnesses by her manner of conferring them.

75. On the day that she was expected, the village bells began ringing before it was light, the charity children were dressed in their Sunday clothes, and an universal holiday was proclaimed.

76. All the peasantry assembled on the lawn before the house, anxiously waiting the arrival of their benefactress, who was so moved by this proof of affection and attachment, that she burst into tears, whilst they, with the most respectful expressions of gladness, testified their love, their joy, and fidelity.

lei fáttagli di passárgli dieci lire ánnue, non fu valévole a calmarlo.

74. Già da un mese circa aveva miledi Luton terminate le sue riparazioni, quando la sua amica fécele parte del desidério che aveva di ritornársene. I servi, al solo pensare che presto rivedrébbono la loro amata e riverita padrona, non capívano in se per l'allegrezza. E sebbene la signora Cleveland, durante la sua assenza, avesse fatta miledi Luton dispensatrice delle sue cortesíe; con tutto ciò ella aveva un cotál garbo nel dare, che accresceva prégio al dono; onde pareva mill' anni a ognuno, che se ne ritornasse.

75. Nel giorno in cui si aspettava la signora Cleveland, le campáne del villágio comincjárono a suonare prima dell' alba: i figliuóli della carità si vestírono da festa, e la festa divenne generále.

76. Tutti i contadini si raunárono nel pratello rimpetto alla casa, aspettando ansiosamente l'arrívo della loro benefattrice, la quale fu sì tocca da queste dimostrazioni di benevolenza e d'affetto, che non potè tenér le lácrime, mentre essi pieni di rispetto e di allegrezza esprimévano i loro sentimenti di giója e di fedeltà.

INNOCENCE JUSTIFIED,

AND

ART DETECTED;

A STORY IN TWO PARTS.

PART THE FIRST.

Innocence Justified.

1. As Mrs. Cavendish and her daughter Matilda were one summer evening straying along the banks of the Thames, in the environs of Kingston, they perceived a female, in the Chinese dress, seated on a tuft of grass by its side, attentively watching the fate of a wicker basket, which appeared to pass slowly on, actuated by the motion of the ebbing tide.

2. Curiosity induced Mrs. Cavendish to approach the margin of the stream, and scrutinously examine the basket, which seemed so

L'INNOCENZA RICONOSCIUTA,

E

L'ARTIFICIO SCOPERTO.

STORIA DIVISA IN DUE PARTI.

PARTE PRIMA.

L'Innocenza Riconosciuta.

1. Passeggiándo la signora Cavendish una sera d'estate colla súa figlia Matilda, lungo la riva del Tamigi, nei cortorni di Kingston, venne loro vedúta una donna vestita alla Chinese, che ivi si stava a sedére sur un cespo d'erba, guatando fiso una cesta di giúnchi, che lentamente galleggiava sull' acqúa a seconda del riflusso.

2. S'invogliò essa di avvicinársi più alla sponda, per méglio vedére quella cesta che traéva sí forte gli sguardi della donna forestiéra: ma un improv-

calculated to attract the stranger's attention. A sudden gust of wind drove it from the shore, and at once defeated her wishes, and disappointed her expectation.

3. The curiosity which had been awakened by the singularity of the circumstance, was increased by the improbability of gratifying it; and, whilst Mrs. Cavendish was reflecting on what she had seen, the woman rushed by her, and, with impatience and anxiety in her countenance, followed the object that had called forth her solicitude.

4. A fisherman at that moment passed, and going directly to the water's side, began unfastening a little wherry, which was chained to a post that was fixed there for the purpose of securing it.

5. "My good man," said Mrs. Cavendish, "I am particularly anxious to see the contents of a little wicker basket, which, by rowing fast, you will soon overtake; and, if you will bring it me you shall not go unrewarded for your trouble."

6. The man instantly jumped into the boat, stripped off his jacket, and in less than five minutes Mrs. Cavendish perceived he had obtained the prize, and was returning with it as fast as possible.

7. As soon as the Chinese had observed this transaction, she quitted the bank of the river, and moved slowly towards London.

8. The waterman soon reached the spot from which he had embarked, and throwing his

viso buffo di vento allontanando la cesta dalla sponda, delúse la sua brama.

3. La novità di questo fatto, e la difficoltà in cui era di chiarírsene, stuzzicárono vie più la di lei curiosità; e, mentre essa rifletteva a ciò che veduto avéa, corse precipitosa accanto a lei la donna con un' ária inquieta ed affannosa, tenendo dietro all'oggetto della sua sollecitúdine.

4. Venne colà in quel punto un pescatore, il quale, andando dirittamente verso il fiume, si diede a sciorre una barchetta che stava legata a un palo ivi piantato per tal uso.

5. "Galantuómo" disse la signora Cavendish" mi par mill' anni di vedér ciò che v'è in quella cestellina di giunchi, la quale, se voi remate un po presto, raggiungerete ben tosto; e, se me la portate, ve ne saprò grado.

6. Costúi saltò súbito nel battello, e, tráttosi da dosso il farsetto, la diede a remi; e la signora Cavendish osservò, che in meno di cinque minuti, egli avea raggiunto la cesta, e che con grandissima celerità se ne tornava con essa.

7. Come la Chinese ébbe veduto questo fatto, lasciò il greto del fiume e s'avviò bel bello verso Londra.

8. Ritornò bén presto il barcajuólo al luogo donde érasi partito, e, legando il battello al palo,

chain round the post, to secure the boat, saluted Mrs. Cavendish with—"I warrant ye, Madam, this pretty babe belongs to that there baggage, who runn'd away as soon as she saw me row up to it."

9. "*Babe!*" exclaimed Mrs. Cavendish, (at the same time turning her eyes upon the basket the man still held in his hand) "what supplicating innocence is pourtrayed in its countenance! how interesting is its smile! my heart already compassionates its unfortunate situation! but put down the child, my good friend," she continued; "and, if possible, overtake the abandoned wretch whose heart has been capable of forming so inhuman a design as that of depriving a lovely babe of existence."

10. The man did as he was directed, and in less than a quarter of an hour returned, dragging with him the object he had been in pursuit of. The moment she beheld the infant in Mrs. Cavendish's arms, she dropped upon her knees, and, regardless of the questions that were put to her, continued for some minutes fixed in her devout attitude: at length, upon Mrs. Cavendish pulling her by the vest, and asking if the child did not belong to her;—she replied: "*mine child! mine child!—yes, mine poor baby!*"

11. "Then how," replied Mrs. Cavendish, "could you have cruelty and inhumanity enough to commit so helpless an innocent to the mercy of the waves? you must be a very wicked woman, and deserve that *punishment* which the law will *inflict*."

disse " scommetto, signora, che questo bel bambino è di quella pettégola, la quale se l'è sgusciata, come s'è accorta che io andava per esso."

9. " Bambinello !" sclamò la signora Cavennish, mirando la cesta che colúi teneva in mano, " che attrative ha quell' aria innocente ! Quanto piacevole è il suo sorríso ! Già m'intenerísce l'infelice stato in cui si trova. Ma, posate il bambino, galantuomo, e fermate, se è possìbile, quell' indegna che ha avuta la barbárie di esporre alla morte una sí gentil creaturína."

10. Partì egli, e in meno d'un quarto d'ora riotornò, menando seco la donna fuggitíva, la quale come vide il bambino tra le bráccia della signora Cavendish, si gettò a ginócchio ; e, senza badare alle domande fáttele, si stette per alcuni minuti immóbile in quella supplichévole positúra ; ma poi, tirándola la signora Cavendish, per la veste, e domandátole se quel bambino era suo, rispose " mia figlia ! mia figlia ! si, la mia póvera bambina !"

11. " E come mai" replicò la signora, " voi, crudele, inumana, avete potuto abbandonare alla mercè dell' acque una póvera innocentina ? Dovete éssere una cattiva donna, e meritate di ésser punita a rigór della legge."

12. "Me no *wicked*—me love mine child; but me have no bread, no rice, no noting at all to give it; and me not like to see it starve, so me do as dey do in China; me put it in de water, and some good soul come and pick it up, and den my poor child have all dat it wants, and Ousanque lie down and die, and den go to good place, and never more cry after cruel husband again."

13. Mrs. Cavendish was much affected by the artless relation of the unhappy woman, and immediately recollected that it was the custom in China for parents to expose their female children to the mercy of the waters, if their own income was insufficient to support them in comfort. Her abhorrence of the act was immediately converted into compassion for the unfortunate being who had committed it: she began asking her a variety of questions, and found that her beauty had attracted the affection of one of the sailors who had accompanied Lord Macartney in his embassy to China, and who had acquired sufficient knowledge of the language to be enabled to plead his passion, which he did with so much energy, as to induce the credulous Ousanque to alter her dress to that which was worn by the other sex, and request the captain of the ship to indulge her with a passage to England. The request was easily obtained, and the unfortunate girl quitted her country, home, and friends, for an ungrateful and abandoned seducer; who, soon after the ship was paid off, entered on

12. " Io non *èsser* cattiva: io *amare* la mia figliuóla: ma io non *avér* pane, riso o altro a darle: io non *amare* di vedérla morír di fame; così io *fare* come nella China: io *métterla* nell' acqua, e qualche buon' anima *andare* a riprénderla; e così la mia povera bambina *avére* tutto il bisognévole; ed Osanca *stèndersi* a *terra*, *morire* e *andare* in buon luogo, senz' *avérsi* più a lagnare della crudeltà del marito."

13. La signora Cavendish fu molto commossa al sémplice racconto dell' infelice donna; e subito le tornò in mente l'uso che vi è nella China, di esporre le figlie sull' acque, allor quando i genitori non hanno con che allevárle comodamente. Laónde, l'orrore, che avéa concepito di questo fatto, cangiátosi immantinente in compassione verso quella sventurata, cominciò a farle várie domande; intese, che un marinájo, il quale era andato con Milord Macartney, nell' ambasceria che fece nella China, érasi innamorato di essa; e che, sapendo a sufficienza quella lingua, tanto disse in favòr della sua passióne, che indusse la crédula Osanca a travestírsi da uomo: che poi ottènne di leggiéri dal capitano del vascello la permissione di farla passare in Inghiltérra; e che in questo modo l'infelice ragazza aveva abbandonato la pátria, i parenti e gli amici, per seguire un ingrato e ribaldo seduttore, il quale, terminato il viággio, entrò in un altro vascello che stava cárico per le Indie Orientali, e la piantò in un paese straniéro, senza denári e senza conoscénza alcuna. La padróna dell' osteria, dove ell' éra

board another bound for the East-Indies, leaving her in a strange country, without money to support, or friends to comfort her. The landlady of the public-house at which she lodged, at Portsmouth, compassionating her forlorn situation, gave her fifteen shillings out of her own pocket (though she owed near five-and-twenty for the room), and a letter to Lord Macartney, describing her situation, and intreating his assistance. With this letter in her pocket, and the child fastened to her back, the poor creature set off for London; but just as she had reached the skirts of Kingston, she was knocked down, robbed of a little bundle that contained her purse, wardrobe, and letter; and, in all probability, would then have ended both her misery and her life, but for the humane interference of a stage coachman, who, perceiving something lying on the road, jumped from his box, and observing the insensible state to which she was reduced, lifted her into the coach, which happened to be empty, stopped at the first public-house he came to, and left her in the care of the mistress, promising to pay all expences when he returned the next day.

The wretched Ousanque, thus reduced to the most abject state of misery, wandered round Kingston in a state of mind little inferior to distraction, which was heightened by the constant cries of the infant, for that nourishment which nature denied it, and which the unfeeling inhabitants refused to bestow. Then it was that the idea of committing it to the waves first occurred, and

alloggiato a Portsmouth, compassionando il di lei caso disperato, le diede quíndici scellíni di própria tasca (senza parlare di venticinque altri circa, che èranle dovuti per la cámera) e di più una léttera per Milord Macartney, in cui gli esponéva le di lei crítiche circostanze, e implorava la sua assistenza. Con questa lettera in tasca e colla bambina a armacollo si partì la poverina per Londra. Ma appéne giunta ai confini di Kingston, fu da certi malviventi battuta e spogliata dell' involtíno, che conteneva i suói denari, i suoi pannicélli, e la lettera; ed avrebbe fors' anche finito di soffrire e di vivere, se non che passando ivi il cocchiére del procáccio, e veduto non so che giacére a terra sulla strada, fermò; e spiccato un salto dalla cassetta, trovando la donna svenuta, la pose nella carrózza che, per buona sorte era vacante, ed alla prima osteria che incontrò la raccomandò alla padrona, promettendo di rifarle tutte le spese occorrenti il giorno vegnente, al suo ritorno.

Riavútasi l'infelice Osanca, e vedéndosi ridotta all' estrema miséria, sen' andava come fuor di se, errando attorno a Kingston; e, per colmo delle sue disgrázie, era di continuo tormentata dalle strida della bambina, la quale, mancando il cibo alla madre, per la poca carità dei terrazzani, soffriva difetto di latte. Quindi nacque in Osanca la risoluzióne di esporla sul primo

the consequences attending it were no less favourable to Ousanque, than they were to the child.

14. Whilst Mrs. Cavendish was attentively listening to the poor woman's relation, Matilda was amusing herself with admiring the beauty of the child; and when she heard her mamma declare it was her intention to take both home with her, the delight she felt was visible in all her features, and she protested she would nurse it all day long, and never play with a doll again.

15. The singularity both of the mother's and child's dress, attracted her notice, and called forth her astonishment; and when she perceived that the poor little creature was bound up so tight with a swathing band, that it could not use any of its limbs, she was absolutely shocked at the sight, and declared it was *more cruel* than drowning it; "for then, mamma," said she, "it would have been *out of its pain*, but now it has a whole *life of misery*."

16. Mrs. Cavendish informed her it was a custom with the Chinese to confine the limbs of the children, from an idea that they would grow crooked if they were suffered to twist them about in any one form that inclination dictated; and their feet in particular were subject to confinement, as the men of that country were more attracted by the beauty of a *small foot*, than the charms of a pretty face.

17. Ousanque's joy and gratitude, when Mrs. Cavendish promised to befriend her, and represent her forlorn situation to Lord Macartney,

fiúme che le si parasse davanti. Ma la cosa riuscì favorévole non meno alla madre che alla figliuóla.

14. Mentre la signora Cavendish stava attenta al racconto della póvera donna, Matilda badava a riguardare la rara bellézza della bambina: ma, come intese, che sua mamma aveva in ánimo di ricéverle ambedúe in casa, ne concepì un piacere sì vivo, che le brillava in fáccia; ed affermò che la ninnerébbe tutto il giorno, e che darebbe un addío perpétuo alla bámbola.

15. Fáttasi poi Matilda a riguardare con sorpresa la strana fòggia di vestire della madre e della figlia, osservò, che quella póvera creaturina era sì strettamente fasciáta, che non poteva muòver dito. Turbata oltre modo a tal vista, disse, che men male sarebbe l'affòrgárla; "che cosí, mamma mia, ella uscirébbe più presto di stento; in vece che ora vive penando."

16. La signora Cavendish le disse, che usávano i Chinesi di strigner colla fasce il corpo de' bambini, per timóre, che, lasciándoli sciolti dimenarsi a lor piacére, avéssero a sconciársi nella persona; e che ciò facèvano soprattutto riguardo a' piédi; perchè in quel paese si apprezzava più un piccolo piede che un bel viso.

17. Vedendo Osanca, che la signora avea promesso di assisterla, e d'informare Milórd Macartney della sua trista situazióne, fu presa da

was testified by a thousand marks of respect and veneration; she knelt at her feet, kissed the hem of her garment, and seemed to consider her as an absolute deity.

Matilda entreated that the child might be dressed like an European, and that she might have the satisfaction of making its clothes, a circumstance which astonished her mamma, as she was by no means fond of work.

18. Mrs. Cavendish fulfilled her promise of writing to Lord Macartney, in behalf of the unfortunate Ousanque, and was in daily expectation of a reply, when the poor creature was suddenly taken extremely ill. A physician was immediately sent for, who, upon the first visit, thought the symptoms foreboded the small-pox. The next day proved his opinion to have been well founded, and in a short time the disease made its appearance with every mark of virulence and danger that could attend it.

19. Every kindness that humanity could dictate, and feeling pay, the unhappy sufferer received from her benevolent benefactress, and at those lucid intervals which the fever sometimes permitted her to experience, she expressed her gratitude in such terms of genuine feeling, that Mrs. Cavendish was often obliged to leave the apartment to disguise her emotions, and drop a tear to her misfortunes.

20. From the first appearance of the disorder, the physician was convinced it would be *fatal*;

tanta giója e gratitúdine, che, dopo avérle dati mille segni di rispetto e di veneraziône, le si gittò a' piedi, e, baciàndole l'orlo della veste, paréva che la riguardasse come una déa scesa dal ciéto.

Matilda pregò sua madre che la bambina fosse vestita all Européa, per avér il piacére di farle gli ábiti. Ciò sorprése la madre che sapeva ésser ella niente portata pel lavóro.

18. La signora Cavendish scrisse, come aveva promesso, a Milord Macartney, in favóre dell' infelice Osanca, e si aspettava da un giórno all' altro la risposta, quando la poveretta cadde gravemente inferma. Fu súbito mandato pel médico, il quale, fin dalla prima visita, giudicò avér ella tutti i sintómi del vajuólo. Si confermò il giorno seguente il suo giudízio, e in breve le spuntò un vajuolo di péssima qualità e del tutto pericolóso.

19. La malavventuráta donnè ricevè dalla sua benefattrice tutta l'assistenza di cui è capace un cuór gentile e caritativo; e quando la febbre le lasciáva qualche lúcido intervallo, essa prorompeva in sentimenti di sì viva gratitúdine, che la signora era spesso costretta di uscíre dall' appartamento, per non mostrare la sua commoziône e per dare sfogo alle lácrime.

20. Fin dal primo apparír del male, persuaso il médico, che sarebbe fatale, assicurò la signora

he informed Mrs. Cavendish that no art could save her; and the event soon proved the clearness of his judgment.

21. The little infant began to sicken on the day its poor mother died; and as Mrs. Cavendish then considered it an absolute duty to protect and support it, she resolved to bestow upon it such an education as would enable it to earn its own subsistence in a manner that was respectable, and not laborious. The first step she took after the death of the mother, was to have it made a Christian, and to intreat that Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, who were her particular friends, would join with her in becoming sponsors. Matilda wanted it to be called after herself; but Mrs. Cavendish pointed out the inconvenience that would attend it; and it was at length agreed that *Pekin* should be the name, by way of reminding it of its unfortunate mother's country.

22. Although the little Pekin received the infection from such a fatal and dreadful kind, yet it had the complaint in a most favourable manner, and in less than six weeks not a single mark of the disorder was visible upon her skin.

23. Matilda's affection for the child daily increased, and the little soul soon testified that it was grateful for her kindness. As soon as it could speak, she undertook to teach it the alphabet, and by the time is was four years old, it could read any of Mrs. Trimmer's little stories as well as its governess, who at that period had entered her tenth year.

Cavendish, che non c'era rimédio; e l'ésito ne confermò ben presto il giudízio.

21. La bambina s'ammalò il giorno stesso in cui morì la sua póvera madre. Allóra la signora Cavendish si credette del tutto in dovére di tolla a se e di mantenérla: però si risolse di darle una tal educazióne che la mettesse in grado di procacciársi il vitto con onore e con poco diságio. La prima cosa che fece dopo la morte della madre, si fù di farla batezzare; e pregò il signore e la signora Fowler suoi particolári amici, di tenérla insiéme con essa a batésimo. Voleva Matilda che le si desse il suo nome: ma la signora Cavendish le dimostrò, ciò non ésser conveniente; e finalmente si conchiuse di chiamárla *Pechina*, in memória del paese della sua sventurata madre.

22. Tuttochè il vajuólo di Pechina fosse della stessa péssima spécie di quello della madre; pure si risolse in un modo molto favorévole, ed in méno di sei settimáne le sparì ogni anche ménomo segno dalla passata malattía.

23. Crescéva ogni giorno in Matilda l'affetto verso la bambina, la quale, piccolina com' éra, si mostrò ben presto riconoscente alla di lei amorevolezza. Appéna poteva essa parlare, che Matilda le insegnò l'alfabéto; e, a quattr' anni, era essa in grado di léggere qualsivóglia storiella della signora Trimmer, bene, quanto la sua maestra, che era entrata allora nei diec' anni-

24. It happened that Mr. Roper, Mrs. Cavendish's youngest brother had, to the great displeasure of all his family, married the daughter of a country shopkeeper, whose beauty had pleased his eye, and whose art and duplicity had imposed upon his understanding. He was then a young ensign in the forty-second regiment, and, though of good family, was possessed of a very small fortune, and therefore it was both an impolitic and imprudent measure. None of his relations, except Mrs. Cavendish, would ever condescend to have any intercourse with him, or the object of his affections; and though she was no less vexed at his marriage than they were, she invited both himself and bride to pass the summer with her at Kingston. The vulgarity of Mrs. Roper's manners, the low cunning of her mind, and the design and artifice which was visible in all her actions, was so obvious to Mrs. Cavendish, that she was astonished that even a youth of nineteen could have been duped by them. The young ensign, however, did not live long enough to *repent* the folly of his conduct; for a violent cold settled upon his lungs, when he had been about five months married, which brought on a rapid decline, and he died whilst on a visit to his affectionate sister, recommending his wife and her expected little one, to her tenderness and protection.

25. Mrs. Cavendish was at that time in deep mourning for an amiable husband, and had her sister-in-law been a different kind of woman, her

24. Ora accadde, che il signor Roper fratello minóre della signora Cavendish, innamorátosi della figlia d'un bottegájo di campagna, che non infinte maniere avéa saputo accalappiárlo, la sposò, con gran dispiacére di tutta la sua famíglia. Era égli giovanetto ed alfiére del reggimento quarantésimo secondo; e quantunque fosse di buona famíglia, egli aveva una molto ténue entrata; che però questo fatto fu sconvenévole ed imprudente. Niuno de' suoi parenti volle più avér che fare con lui o colla sua mòglie, eccetto la signora Cavendish, la quale tuttochè si avesse per male questo matrimónio, non meno degli altri, pure invitò lui e la sua sposa a passar seco l'estate a Kingston. Il far dozzinále della signora Roper, unito a una furbería grossolana di cui l'artifizio e il disegno scorgévansi in ogni sua azione, dávano talmente agli occhi della signora Cavendish, che non poteva compréndere come un giovanetto, anche di diciannov' anni, avesse potuto restárne preso. Ma il gióvane alfiére non ebbe tempo di pentirsi della sua folle condotta; perocchè cinque mesi circa, dopo il suo matrimónio, una grave infreddatúra gli si gettò sui polmóni, e, formátasi ben presto l'etisía, in una visita che fece alla sua amorévole sorella, si morì, mentre stava raccomandando alla di lei benevolenza e protezione e la sposa e 'l bambino che aveva a náscere.

25. Era allora la signora Cavendish in gran bruno per la morte del suo caro marito; e, se la sua cognata fosse stata d'un' altra tempra,

company and society would have been a great acquisition; but the dissimilarity of their tempers, dispositions, and manners, was too striking for such a plan to be adopted; and Mrs. Cavendish preferred allowing her sister a hundred a year out of her own income, to letting her remain an inmate of the family, and hoped that she would return to her own connexions, and spend it in what manner she thought proper. But Mrs. Roper knew her own interest too well to quit the neighbourhood, and, under pretence of violent affection, declared that all her happiness was centered in being able to trace her dear Edward's features in the lovely countenance of his amiable sister! A small first-floor was accordingly hired at Kingston, and under the pretence of admiring *one thing*, and *wishing* for *another*, Mrs. Roper contrived almost to double her hundred a year.

26. The little child, which proved to be a girl, was extremely like its deceased father, and Mrs. Cavendish felt for it almost a maternal tenderness: as there was not more than twelve months difference in the age of Charlotte (which was the child's name) and Pekin, they spent a great deal of time together, though the difference of their dispositions occasioned frequent disputes between them.

27. From the moment Mrs. Cavendish adopted the little Pekin, Mrs. Roper became *restless* and *dissatisfied*, and with much difficulty refrained from expressing her disapprobation even before

la di lei compagnia sarébbele riuscita di gran conforto: ma troppo s'opponeva a questa società la differenza dei loro temperamenti, delle inclinazioni e de' costúmi. Però la signora Cavendish amò méglio passar di suo, alla cognata, cento lire ánnue, che tenérla con se, lusingandosi che dovéss' ella ritornársene co' suoi parenti, e spéndere il denaro a suo génio. Ma la signora Roper conoscendo, che il separársi da essa non si confaceva punto co' suoi interessi, fece sembiante di ésserle forte affezionata, e disse, che altro piacere non provava al mondo, che quello di potér contemplare le amate fattézze del suo caro Eduardo nel grazióso volto della sua diletta cognata. Fu perciò appigionato a Kingston un piccolo appartamento al primo piano, e la signora Roper, col protesto di ammirár una cosa, e di desiderárne un' altra, trovò il modo di far montare quasi a ducento, le cento lire ánnue.

26. La signora Roper partorì una bambina che avea tutte le fattezze del suo defunto padre; e la signora Cavendish l'amava poco méno della sua figlia. Come tra Carlotta (che così fu chiamata la bambina) e Pechina non corrévano più che dodici mesi, esse usávano quasi sempre insieme: ma, per la differenza de' loro temperamenti, spesso si bisticciávano.

27. Fin del momento in cui la signora Cavendish adottò Pechina, la signora Roper fu inquiéta e malcontenta, e a mala pena poteva contenérsi dal biasimár questo fatto in presenza

her sister; but this restraint was amply compensated for in her absence, and Charlotte was taught to consider Pekin as an absolute obstacle to her happiness and her interest. Mrs. Roper would be continually teizing all her acquaintance with accounts of her own misfortunes, or ill-founded complaints of her sister's injustice, in giving away property which ought to belong to her and Charlotte, to a good-for-nothing, *worthless, little vagabond*; who, she knew, would requite all her kindness with scorn, artifice, and ingratitude; "every body knows (she would say) what a horrid set of creatures the Chinese are; that they live by *cheating*, *plundering*, and *theft*; and that little wretch has already given proofs of its national depravity."

28. Athough this was the general tenor of Mrs. Roper's conversation when she was not in her sister's company, yet when she was, Pekin was the *sweetest* of all *sweet creatures*, and Mrs. Cavendish the most *amiable of women*.—Charlotte was not of age to be an adept in hypocrisy, and therefore she testified her real dislike by a thousand ill-natured, spiteful tricks, which poor little Pekin submitted to in silence, without murmur or complaint; for, notwithstanding Mrs. Roper's malignant assertions, it was impossible to find a child more completely agreeable.

della cognata: ma poi si rifacéva ampiamente di questa sua ritenutezza, nella di lei assenza, ed aveva insegnato a Carlotta a risguardár Pechina come la sola persona che si opponéva al suo ben éssere. La signora Roper stancava continuamente le persone sue conoscenti col racconto delle próprie disgrázie o col lagnarsi della pretesa ingiustízia fáttale dalla cognata, del buttar via sostanze, che dovéano ricadére a se ed a Carlotta, e ciò a prò d'una ragazza buona a nulla, immeritévole e píccola vagabonda che avrebbe senz' altro corrispósto a tanti favóri, col disonorarla, con bindolerie e con ingratitúdine. "Ognuno sa," diceva ella, "che péssima razza di gente sono i Chinesi: vívono d'inganni, di rapíne, di ladronecci; e questa píccola malandrina ha già dato sággio del vízio nazionále.

28. Sebbéne la signora Roper fosse sólita di tenér símili discorsi in assenza della sua cognata: contuttociò, quando ella si trovava presente, Pechina era la più dolce cosa del mondo e la più gentile; e la signora Cavendish la donna la più amábile. Carlotta non era in età da potér imitare questa dissimulazione; e però mostrava di leggiéri l'avversione che portava a Pechina, con mille modi malígni e dispettosi; e la poverina tolleráva ogni cosa senza far motto o lagnársene. Di fatti, non ostante il male che ne andava dicendo la signora Roper, non era possíbile di trovare una più compíta ragazzina.

PART THE SECOND.

Art Detected.

1. As the beautiful, amiable, and interesting Pekin advanced in years, Mrs. Roper had the mortification of perceiving that Mrs. Cavendish's affection increased, and that her own child seemed daily to loose ground in her good opinion. The truth was, Mrs. Cavendish had discovered in her niece's temper, an inclination both to jealousy and envy, and a littleness of mind that was capable of stooping to any meanness, which lessened her regard, and decreased her esteem.

2. It was Mrs. Cavendish's wish to give her little *protegée* such an education as would enable her to undertake the instruction of young ladies; and, in the capacity of private governess, render herself both useful and respectable, and, therefore, she took lessons from the same masters, and received the same attentions from them as Matilda and Charlotte did. This circumstance was at once pleasing to Matilda, and painful to Charlotte, whose inveteracy against Pekin was increased by encomiums which were bestowed upon her, and who, finding herself unable to injure her in Mrs. Cavendish's opinion by ill-natured hints and sly suggestions, was at length

PARTE SECONDA.

L'Artificio Scoperto.

1. QUANTO più s'avanzava in età l'amábile e gentil Pechina, tanto più si rodeva la signora Roper, nel vedér créscere di giorno in giorno l'affetto della signora Cavendish verso di essa, e scemársi l'amore che avéa dimostrato alla sua figlia Carlotta. La ragióne di questo si éra che la signora Cavendish avea scoperto nella sua nipóte un naturale gelóso e invidióso a segno, che si sarebbe abbassata a qualsivóglia viltà, per far pérdere a Pechina il concetto e la stima in cui era tenuta.

2. Voleva la signora Cavendish dare a questo suo alliévo una tal educazione, che potesse col tempo ésser in grado di esercitare privatamente l'útile ed onorévole ufficio di aja; che però le dava gli stessi maestri, che a Matilda e a Carlotta, i quali non minór cura avévano di lei che dell' altre. Quanto fu grata questa cosa a Matilda, altrettanto dispiácque a Carlotta, il cui ódio inveterato contro Pechina era sempre piú stuzzicato dall' elógio che ne facéano i maestri. Ora, non bastando i maliziósi motti e gli studiáti cavilli a screditár Pechina presso la signora Cavendish fu preso in fine il partito di rovinárla, col métter

resolved upon her ruin, by the practice of manœuvres which were as deeply laid, as they were iniquitously executed.

3. At the back of Mrs. Cavendish's house was an excellent garden, which was abundantly stocked with every kind of wall-fruit.—This fruit Mrs. Cavendish was particularly choice of, for the pleasure of presenting to such of her friends as were not accommodated with the convenience of a wall.

4. Charlotte, upon perceiving her aunt's desire to preserve the fruit, was resolved to defeat it, and watched her opportunity of going into the garden with such admirable nicety, that she contrived to twitch three or four peaches from the trees every time she entered it, the stone of which she always placed at the bottom of a little box which Pekin kept in her own bed-room.

5. For some days Mrs. Cavendish imagined the trees were thinner, without being positive as to the circumstance; at length she resolved to count the fruit, without mentioning her suspicion to a single soul. The next morning she walked into the garden, and discovered that eleven of the finest peaches were missing. Matilda and Pekin, Mrs. Roper and Charlotte were all at work in the drawing-room when Mrs. Cavendish entered, and expressed her vexation at the circumstance, and her wish to discover the person who had been guilty of such disgraceful conduct.

6. "I thought Pekin," said Charlotte, "you

in ópera una trama, la quale fu ordíta con non minor accortezza, che perfidamente eseguíta.

3. Aveva la signora Cavendish diétro alla casa un bellíssimo giardino con ispalliére forníte d'ogni génere di frutti, che le stávano molto a cuóre, perchè si dilettava di presentare certi frutti più rari alle persone sue amiche.

4. Accórtasi Carlotta del génio particolare che sua zia aveva per que' frutti, si risolse di dar loro il guasto; e studiátosi il modo d'introdúrsi di soppiátto nel giardino, ogni volta che v' entrava, leppava tre o quatro pesche, e poi andava a métterne il nócciolo in fondo d'una cassetta che era nella cámera di Pechina.

5. Già da qualche giorno pareva alla signora Cavendish che si andássero diradando le pesche, e ne stava in forse: ma pure si risolse in fine di contárle, senza far di ciò motto a persona. Andò la vegnente mattina nel giardino, e trovò che vi mancávano úndici delle più belle pesche. Stávansi Matilda, Pechina, la signora Roper e Carlotta a lavorare nel salone, quando, entrata la signora Cavendish, fece lor parte del dispiacere che le apportava questo fatto, e del desidério che aveva di sapére chi avesse fatto una cosa tanto biasimévole.

6. " Già m' immagináva, o Pechina," disse

could not *eat all those peaches* which I have seen you gather without being discovered; and had I not known that my cousin would have called me *tell-tale*, I would have called my aunt to look at you the first time I saw you take them."—"*Saw me take peaches!* Miss Roper," said the child, evidently embarrassed at the boldness of the charge, "I declare, upon my honour, I have never touched a peach this year, but what Mrs. Cavendish was so kind as to give me."—"Yes," replied Charlotte, I saw *you take peaches*, if that's English; and saw you carry them up stairs in your bed-room; what say you to that, Miss Honesty? *can you deny that?*"—"*Yes, that I can*," said Pekin, bursting into tears, "and wonder how you can be so wicked as to say such a thing."

7. "What do you mean, you little presumptuous vagabond," exclaimed Mrs. Roper, "by daring to accuse my daughter of *uttering an untruth?* I thought how my sister would be requited for her generosity, for the whole tribe of your countrymen are all *thieves* and *swindlers*."—"My dear Mrs. Roper," said Mrs. Cavendish, "that little girl is under my protection, and I can neither suffer her to be insulted nor oppressed; if she *has taken* the peaches, she has been guilty of a very great *fault*, and I am the person to judge of the proper mode of punishing it; but I am inclined to think my niece must be mistaken."—"Oh! indeed, aunt, I am *not* mistaken,"

Carlotta," che non avreste potuto mangiár tutte le pesche che vi ho veduta cógliere, senza éssere scoperta; e se non avessi saputo, che la mia cugina mi chiamerébbe *novelliéra*, vi avrei mostrata a mia zía, fin dalla prima volta che vi vidi far questo."—" Voi, signorina, avete veduta me pigliár pesche?" disse la ragazzina sopraffatta dalla temerità dell' accúsa. " Dichiaro sull' onór mio, che non ho toccato in quest' anno altre pesche, che quelle che la signora Cavendish ebbe la bontà di darmi."—" Sí," replicò Carlotta, " io vi ho veduta pigliár pesche: parlo io in buona lingua? e vi ho veduta salíre e portárle nella vostra cámera. Che avete a ridire a questo, signora Onesta? Potéte negárlo?"—Sí, posso, "disse Pechina, stemprándosi in lácrime" e mi maravíglio che possiáte ésser tanto cattiva, per affermár una tal cosa.

7. " Che sento! piccola presontuosa vagabonda, " sclamò la signora Roper, " e ardite voi dar una mentíta a mia figlia? Già m'aspettava che aveste a corrispóndere in questo moda alla generosità di mia cognata; perchè tutti, quanti voi siéte nel vostro paese, siete una massa di ladri e di bindoli.—" Mia cara signora," disse allóra la signora Cavendish " questa, ragazzina è sotto la mia protezióne; e non soffrirò che sia insultata o sopraffatta: se ella ha preso le pesche, ha commésso un gran mancamento, e a me tocca il trovare il modo di punírla: ma, mi giova crédere, che mia nipote ábbia preso uno sbáglio." —" Oh! no certo, signora zía, non ho preso

replied Charlotte, "for I met her eating one up stairs, and saw the juice quite run down to her fingers' ends.

8. "Suppose," said Mrs. Roper, "you were to go up stairs, sister; most likely the stones might yet be remaining either in her drawers or boxes."

9. Mrs. Cavendish followed the advice; and returned in five minutes, with not less than forty stones belonging to peaches.—Pekin coloured like scarlet, and, in a tremulous voice, said, "You did not find those in my room, Ma'am." —"Yes," replied Mrs. Cavendish, "*but I did*; and I must confess, that I should as soon have expected to have found a dagger there: indeed, Pekin, this conduct of yours has wounded my peace, destroyed my hopes, and sapped the very foundation of my *friendship*. The taking the fruit I could easily have forgiven; but to assert an untruth with all that calmness of affected innocence, is what I could not have expected, and what I am resolved *not to forgive*; therefore, go this instant to your apartment, and do not let me see you until my feelings are less exasperated, and my anger more subdued."

"10. Fearful of offending, by presuming to plead for mercy, the agitated Pekin left the room, and, in an agony of grief, retired to her own apartment. Matilda was not suffered to go near her friend; and had not the servants, who carried up her food, informed their mistress that scarcely any part of it was eaten, and that the little

sbaglio," riprese Carlotta, " poichè l'ho incontrata sulla scala, mentre ne mangiáva una, e glien' ho veduto scórrere il sugo per le dita."

8. " Ponghiamo il caso, signora cognata," disse la signora Roper, " che andaste nella sua cámera: non è difficile che se ne tróvino ancora dei nóccioli ne' tiratói o nelle cassette."

9. Così fece la signora Cavendish; e fra cinque minuti se ne ritornò con ben quaranta nóccioli di pesche.—Pechina si fece rossa come lo scarlatto; e con trémula vóce disse: " Signora, non gli avrete trovati in cámera mia.—Sì," riprese la signora Cavendish, " in camera vostra; e debbo confessarvi che tanto m'aspettava di trovarvi un pugnale. Affè, Pechina, questa vostra condotta m' ha trafitto il cuore, ha abbatuto le mie speranze, ed ha svelto fin dalle radíci l'amore ch' io vi portava. La presa de' frutti non mi darebbe gran caso, ma, sostenére una bugía con quella calma con cui si farebbe una verità, questo è quello che non mi aspettava e di che non mi scorderò giammai. Vía, ritirátevi súbito nel vostro appartamento e non mi comparite più davanti, finché síasi disacerbato il mio dolore e calmata la cóllera.

10. Rimasta Pechina come una cosa balorda, temeva di far péggio col domandar perdóno; ed uscendo dalla cámera, oppressa dall' angóscia, andò nel suo appartamento. Non fu permesso a Matilda di far compagnía alla súa amica; e se le serve che le portavano a mangiáre non avéssero informata la padrona, che la piccola pri-

prisoner was overwhelmed with grief, her confinement would have been protracted much beyond three days; but the apprehension of her making herself ill, induced Mrs. Cavendish to forgive the fault, and Charlotte had the mortification of seeing her restored to favour.

11. Mrs. Roper, who had been accessary to the scheme, was heartily vexed at its ill success; yet both Charlotte and herself were resolved to attempt another, which, though more hazardous, was likely to be attended with more certain consequences.

12. Mrs. Cavendish was particularly partial to a small miniature of her late husband's, which was set as a bracelet, and was kept in a small box that was opened by a spring lock, and stood upon her dressing-table. This box she made a point of never opening in the presence of the servants; but all the children were acquainted with the secret spring. Charlotte, therefore, resolved to make herself mistress of this valuable treasure, and disclosing her intention to an ignorant girl, who had formerly lived servant with Mrs. Roper, and was then going to London, persuaded her so far to second the design, as to undertake the disposal of it; and, if any questions were asked, to say she was sent by the little girl who lived at Mrs. Cavendish's, and that it was a picture she had found as she was walking by the river side.

13. As Mrs. Cavendish had never lived at Kingston, and the girl was known to have been

gioniéra, appéna assaggiáva una parte di quello che le si dava e che struggévasi dal dolore, il suo bando avrebbe oltrepassato d'assái i tre giorni: ma, temendo la Signora Cavendish ch' ella si ammalasse, le accordò il perdono: e Carlotta ebbe il dispiacére di vedérgliela tornata in grázia.

11. La Signora Roper che avéa tenuto mano a tutto questo fatto, era accorata della sua mala riuscíta. Laonde, d'accordo con Carlotta, formò un altro progetto, dal quale, quantunque più rischióso, si prometteva un ésito più decisivo.

12. Stava molto a cuore alla signora Cavendish una piccola miniatúra del suo defunto marito, la quale era incastrata in uno smaníglio, e la serbava riposta in una cassettina che teneva sopra la toeletta ed aprívasi con una serratura a molla. Essa si guardava dall' aprírla in presenza de' servi: ma tutte le ragazze ne conoscévano l'ordigno. Però Carlotta si pose in capo di tor via questa cosa sì preziósa; e, confidato il suo disegno a una ragazza scimunita che avea servita la signora Roper, e stava allora per andársene a Londra, tanto le disse, che l'indusse a secondare il suo disegno, e a vénderla, soggiungéndole che, se mai le venissero fatte ricerche intornò a ciò, dicesse, che era stata mandata dalla ragazzina che stava in casa Cavendish, la quale, passeggiando lungo il fiúme, avéa ritrovata quella pittúra.

13. Non avendo mai la signora Cavendish dimorato a Kingston; e sapéndosi che la ragazza

servant to Mrs. Cavendish's sister-in-law, the jeweller had no reason to doubt the truth of the circumstance she related; he therefore took the picture, paid a guinea down for it, and promised another, if it was not claimed in the course of a month, which he thought likely to happen, as he concluded it belonged to some person in the neighbourhood, and would be advertised.

14. As Mrs. Cavendish never wore the bracelet but when she was particularly dressed, a fortnight elapsed after it was sold, before the loss was discovered, and Charlotte's patience began to be almost exhausted. At length the wished-for day arrived, which was to give her the delightful satisfaction of beholding the ruin of one towards whom she felt a most *unconquerable aversion*.

15. Mrs. Cavendish's astonishment, at opening the box, not perceiving the valued treasure, was excessive; but conceiving the bracelet could not be lost, she imagined she must have put it away with some other part of her dress. Drawers, boxes, and cabinets, were searched in vain; and then her vexation amounted to absolute uneasiness. She perfectly recollected having taken it off when she returned home from paying her last visit: and the more she reflected upon the singularity of the circumstance, the more she was bewildered in doubt, suspicion, and alarm. Her servants had lived with her thirteen and fourteen years, and their fidelity had been frequently put to the test. Pekin had never but *once deceived*

era stata serva della signora Roper cognata della suddetta, il giojelliére non aveva ragione di dubitare della verità del fatto: però prese la pittura, le diede una ghinéa a conto e promisegliene un' altra, se nel corso d'un mese non se ne fosse fatto richiámo. Giudicò egli che qualche persona del vicinato l'avesse perduta e che in tal tempo se ne farebbe ricerca.

14. Siccóme la signora Cavendish non faceva uso dello smaníglio che in occasione di qualche vísita di cerimónia, così passárono quíndici giorni dopo la véndita, senza che s'avvedésse di questo fatto; e già Carlotta cominciava ad impazientírsi. Giunse finalmente il bramato giorno, in cui doveva essa godér il piacere di vedér rovinata una persona, per cui nutriva un ódio implacábile.

15. Non si potrebbe ridíre qual fosse la sorpresa della signora Cavendish, allorchè, aprendo la casetta, trovò che vi mancava una cosa di tanto prégio. Ma poi, pensando che lo smaníglio non poteva ésser perduto, si avvisò dovér egli éssere avvolto in qualche parte delle sue vesti. Si fécero delle ricerche ne' tiratói, nelle cassette, negli stipi, ma senza prò; e allora la sollecitúdine si cangiò in tristezza. Si ricordava ella benissimo, che, ritornata in casa dopo l'última vísita, se l'éra levato; e, quanto più rifletteva alla singolarità di questo fatto, più si sentiva travagliata da dubbi, sospetti e patúre. I suoi servi avéano trédici e quattórdici anni di servízio, e la loro fedeltà era stata messa più volte alla prova.

her; and of what use could a bracelet be to a child of her tender age? Charlotte, she believed to be capable of a thousand *sly tricks*; but then some interested motive actuated their practice. Not knowing how to act, and completely mortified at the loss of what she considered so very estimable, Mrs. Cavendish at length resolved to have it *cried*, conceiving she might be mistaken in her opinion of having had it after her return from Mrs. Fowler's, and that it might have been dropped in the way home.

16. The jeweller was standing at the shop-door as the crier announced the loss, and described the manner in which the picture was painted, and the form in which it was set. Examining the one he had purchased, and perceiving that it exactly corresponded with the crier's description, he immediately informed him of the manner in which he had obtained it, and both expressed their suspicion of Pekin's dishonesty, as they justly observed, she could not have lived ten years in Mrs. Cavendish's house, without knowing the picture was *her property*. The jeweller and the crier agreed to go together to inform Mrs. Cavendish by what means the picture had come into the possession of the former, and request a reimbursement of the guinea he had paid, in addition to the reward proclaimed by the crier.

17. Mrs. Cavendish and Matilda were just gone out to pay a morning visit, when the men arrived; but Mrs. Roper and her daughter were sitting in the parlour, and saw them pass the

Pechina non l'aveva truffata che una volta: ma, che uso poteva fare d'uno smaniglio, una ragazza della sua età? Credeva Carlotta capáce di mille furberíe, ma non già di métterle in opera senza un suo interesse particolare.—Non sapendo che fársi, e cruciósa oltre modo per la pérdita di cosa sì pregévole, si risolse finalmente di farlo bandire; ed avvisossi, che poteva éssersi ingannata, credendo di avérlo avuto seco quando ritornò dal signor Fowler, e che forse l'aveva perduto nel venír a casa.

16. Stávasi il giojelliére sulla porta della bottega, allorchè il banditore pubblicò questa cosa, specificando le qualità della pittura e il modo con cui ell' éra congegnata. Andò egli a vedére quella che avéa comprata, e, trovando che quadrava per l'appúnto colla descrizione fattane dal banditore, gli espose tosto il modo con cui éragli venuta alle mani; e cominciárono ambidúe a formár dei sospetti contro Pechina, facendo ragióne che non aveva essa potuto dimorár diec' anni in casa della signora Cavendish, senza sapére di chi fosse la pittura.—Il giojelliére adunque, d'accordo col banditore, conchiuse di andare dalla signora Cavendish e d'informárla del modo con cui la pittura éragli capitata alle mani, a fine di farsi rimborsare la sua ghinéa e di ricévere la ricompensa promessa nel bando.

17. Vi giúnsero la mattina, in tempo appunto che la signora Cavendish e Matilda érano uscíte per far una vísita: ma la signora Roper che stava a sedére nella sala colla sua figlia e vídeli passare

window. "There's the crier and Mr. Martin have both rung at the gate together, exclaimed Mrs. Roper, "and I'll lay my life we shall hear some tidings of the bracelet.—"*I hope we shall*, I'm sure," said Pekin; "for it will make my dear godmamma *very happy*." And so saying, she was going to run out of the room, to inquire whether their expectations were likely to be realized. "Stop, you little forward chit," said Mrs. Roper, catching her by the shoulder, and pushing her with violence to the other end of the room, "I believe I am as much interested in your DEAR GODMAMMA'S *property* as *you are*, and much more capable of evincing it." So saying, she bounced out of the room, leaving the child petrified with astonishment and drowned in tears, whilst Charlotte sat maliciously smiling at the success of her invention, and the accomplishment of her scheme.

18. In less than five minutes Mrs. Roper re-entered, followed by the jeweller and the crier, and in a voice half choked with rage, exclaimed: —"You *vile*, *wicked*, *ungrateful hussey!* is this the way you requite my poor sister's kindness? What! rob her of the most valuable thing she possessed on earth, and then, with the art and hypocrisy of an old offender, pretend to be going out to inquire after the very thing you knew you had first *stolen*, and then *sold!* But I see through your tricks, you baggage, I do: you was fearful your countenance would *betray your guilt*, and you wished to get out of the

dalla finestra, sclamò: " Ecco quì il banditore e il signor Martin che suónano alla porta! scommetto il capo che avrém nuove dello smaniglio, —" Spero di si, ne son certa, " disse Pechina," e che buona nuova sarà questa per la mia cara matrina!" In questo dire, s'alzò per córrere fuor della cámera ed informársi se la cosa éra così. —" Fermátevi, mocciosetta," disse la signora Roper, prendéndola per una spalla e spingéndola con forza nella parte opposta della cámera," credo di avér a cuore gl' interessi della vostra *cara matrina*, quanto voi, e di potérmene informar molto méglio di voi.". Così dicendo, saltò fuori dalla cámera, lasciando la ragazzina sbalordita strúggersi in lácrime: mentrecchè Carlotta stávasi a sedére, sorridendo malignamente pel successo della sua iuvenzione ed aspettándone la riuscita.

18. In meno di cinque minuti rientrò la signora Roper accompagnata dal giojelliére e dal banditore; e con voce interrotta dalla rabbia esclamò: " Voi vile, malvágia, sconoscente pettégola! così dunque ricompensate i benefizi ricevuti dalla mia póvera cognata? E che? rubárle la cosa la più preziósa che avesse al mondo; e poi, coll' astúzia e doppiézza di un marinólo consumato, volér andare a informarsi di quella medesima cosa, che sapeváte avér voi rubata e venduta? Ma conósco la vostra malízia, bricconcella, sì la conosco. Temevate che vi apparisse in fáccia il vostro misfatto, e avete cercato di nascónderlo

room to hide it. But where is the guinea you received from Mr. Martin? Give that to me this moment, you *abandoned, wicked hussey!*"

19. Whilst Mrs. Roper was uttering this volley of abuse, the unfortunate child had involuntarily dropped upon her knees; and the moment that lady ceased speaking, she protested her innocence of the crime that was alledged against her, with all the eloquence that *conscious rectitude* could inspire.

20. "Come, come, child," said Mr. Martin, "don't add the sin of *lying* to those you have already committed; but *confess* what you have done with the *money*, and likewise what induced you to commit such a wicked action.—"Aye, aye, come, *Pekin*, (for I suppose one need not be very nice, and *Miss you over*,") said the crier; "be a good girl, and tell the whole *truth* to madam, and mayhap that may make her plead for you to Madam Cavendish; for you are but a young thing, God knows; and that makes one feel some sort of marcy for you: but if you once comes to be obstinate, and *parsist* in *lying*, why then you'll have *no friend* to spake a kind word for you."

21. "*Indeed! indeed!*" replied poor Pekin, almost suffocated with the violence of her grief, "I know no more about the picture than you do; and as to a guinea, I never had such a thing in my life. Oh! pray, dear gentlemen," she continued, "pray, don't let my godmamma think so hardly of me. Oh! I shall die, if she

coll' uscir di cámera. Ma, dov' è la ghinéa che avete ricevuto dal signor Martin? Dátemela ora, vituperósa malandrina e indegna."

19. Mentre la signora Roper vomitava tutte queste villanie, l'infelice Pechina si lasciò cadér sulle ginócchia, senza badárvi; e, finito che ebbe la signora di parlare, protestò se éssere innocente del delitto imputátole; e ció fece con quell' eloquenza che è própria dell' innocenza.

20. "Su via, ragazzina" disse il signor Martin" non accrescéte colla bugía il vostro mancamento, ma confessate ció che avete fatto del denáro, e qual cosa può avérvi indotta a commettere una sì cattiva azione.—" Sì, sì, ánimo, Pechina, (che penso non ci vógliano con voi troppe cerimónie)" soggiunse il banditore, "siáte buona ragazza e dite tutto il fatto alla signora, e può éssere ch' ella s'interponga a vostro favóre presso la signora Cavendish; perchè siéte ancora di poca età, Dio il sa, e fate pietà: ma poi, se fate l'ostinata e persistéte nel dir la bugía, non vi sarà più alcuno che vóglia aprir bocca per voi."

21. "Davvéro, davvero" replicò la póvera Pechina, quasi affogando dal dolóre, "io non so più di pittura che voi; e, quanto alla ghinéa, io non ho mai avuto tal cosa in vita mia. Oh! di grázia, cari signori," continuò ella, "ve ne prego, fate che la mia matrina non ábbia un sì cattivo concetto di me. Ah! io morrò, se ella

thinks I could do such a *wicked* thing."—"*Thinks!*" exclaimed Mrs. Roper, "she shall more than *think*, I assure you, for she shall *know it* this moment, I promise you;—yes, and your friend Mrs. Fowler, and all the *town shall know it.*"—So saying, she turned towards the door, with an intent of putting her threats into execution.

22. Frantic with terror, and agonised with dread, the wretched suppliant caught her by the gown, and, in the most moving accents, besought her pity. It was with the greatest difficulty that her hands were separated from Mrs. Roper's drapery, who, the moment she felt herself at liberty, ran out of the room, desiring the crier to remain there, and watch the *little wretch.*

23. Mr. Cavendish was just informing Mrs. Fowler of an amiable trait in her god-daughter's conduct, when Mrs. Roper entered, and in a tone of manifest pleasure and exultation exclaimed, —"*Well sister!* I believe you allow I am a *true prophetess!* a fine kettle of fish this is, but, however, 'tis only what I have *long expected—long expected, I assure you,* Mrs. Fowler," said she, addressing herself to that lady: and she then related the whole circumstance, with such exaggerations as she thought most calculated to call forth her sister's indignation.

24. Mrs. Cavendish listened to the recital with a mixture of pain, regret, and astonishment,

s'immágina ch' io sia stata capace d'una sì nera azione." — "S'immágina?" sclamò la signora Roper" altro che immaginarsi: vi assicúro, che or ora lo saprà, ve le prometto, sì; e la vostra amica la Signora Fowler e tutta la città lo risapránno." In questo dire si voltò verso la porta per andár a méttere in esecuzione le sue minácce.

22. Fuór di se pel terróre e smarrita dalla paúra la misera supplicante, présela per la veste, chiedéndole mercé colle più ténere espressioni. Ebbe molto che fare la signora Roper per isbrigársene; e, sciolta che fù, correndo fuór della cámera, pregò il banditore di non partire, e d'avér l'ócchio a quella bricconcella.

23. Stava appunto la Signora Cavendish parlando colla signora Fowler d'un bel tratto della sua figliócia, quando entrò la signora Roper e con un' ária soddisfatta e giubilante, sclamò: "bene, cognata! spero che confesserete che sonó una vera profetessa: la novella è curiósa, má non mi sorprende: già me l'aspettava, è gran tempo; sì me l'aspettava, vé l'assicúro" disse, volgéndosi alla Signora Fowler. Si diede quindi a raccontare tutto il fatto, esaggerándone le circostanze, che stimava più accónce a stuzzicár lo sdegno di sua cognata.

24. La signora Cavendish la stava ascoltando con un dispiacére misto di maraviglia, quando

whilst poor Matilda burst into an agony of tears, and besought her mamma not to condemn poor Pekin, without allowing her an opportunity of endeavouring to *exculpate herself.* "That she can *never do*, my beloved girl," replied Mrs. Cavendish; "the circumstances are too strong against her: and I would really spare myself the mortification of beholding her contrition and remorse, because an action of this kind proves to me they would not be permanent. Poor, lost child!" she continued, "I declare I am more distressed at the idea of what a dreadful end she must come to, than I am at my *own disappointment.* What to do with her I know not; and it will require some time for me to reflect upon the best method to adopt. In my house she must *not stay*, even until I have resolved upon her future *destination.*"

25. "Let her *come to me*," said Mrs. Roper; "for though the idea of opening my door to a *confirmed thief*, is not the pleasantest thing in the world, yet to oblige *you*, my dearest sister, I would submit to any *inconvenience.*"—"You are *very good*," replied Mrs. Cavendish; "but I know Charlotte's aversion to the poor child too well to allow her an opportunity of insulting her; for though she is *fallen*, she must not be *trampled upon.*"—"I will take her," said Mrs. Fowler: "and Clark shall go for her the back way, and by that means, my dear friend, you will avoid the interview you seem to dread."

26. When Clark arrived at Mrs. Cavendish's,

la póvera Matilda, prorompendo in amare lácrime, pregò sua mamma di non condannare quella sciagurata prima di udirne le discolpe.—Questo è quello che non potrà mai fare, mia cara," disse la signora Cavéndish. "troppo chiare sono le prove. Vorrei per altro esentarmi dall' ascoltare le voci doloróse che nasceránno da' suoi rimorsi, perchè un' azione di tal fatta, prova che il suo ravvedimento non può éser durévole. Malarrivata fanciulla!" Soggiunse, "protesto che più m'affligge il pensare al fine terribile a cui s'ha a ridurre, che il mio próprio travàglio. Io per me non so che farne; e mi convién rifléttere qualche tempo per risólvere. Essa non resterà più in casa mia, finchè io ábbia preso un partito su questo punto."

25. "Venga ella con me," disse la signora Roper; "e, sebbéne il raccettare una ladra pùbblica, non sia la più bella cosa del mondo; púre, per obbligarvi, mia cara cognata, mi sottometto a qualsivóglia inconveniente."—"Mille grázie," replicò la signora Cavendish; "ma, mi è nota pur troppo l'avversióne che ha Carlotta per quella póvera ragazza, la quale sarebbe con ciò esposta a troppi insulti: che se ha mancato, non debb' ésser vilipésa."—"La prenderò io," disse la Signara Fowler," e Chiara andrà per éssa e la condurrà per la porta di diétro; e così, mia cara, eviterete un incontro che non vi garba."

26. Giúnta Chiara a casa della signora Cavendish,

she was astonished at the tale that met her ear; yet soon began to think with the rest of the servants, that there was some artifice at the bottom, and that poor little Pekin would be proved innocent at last; they therefore embraced the child with tenderness, and pretending that her godmamma had sent for her to Mrs. Fowler's, easily persuaded her to accompany Clark; but had she imagined she was to return no more, not any thing but *force* would have made her quit the house.

27. When Mrs. Fowler informed her that she was to reside with her until her benefactress could think of some plan for her future support, her grief was so *excessive*, and her expressions of *innocence* so strong, that Mrs. Fowler began to doubt the truth of the circumstance that had been alledged against her, and her husband went to the jeweller to inquire particulars.

28. The man's account increased his suspicion, and at all events he was determined to see the girl, who had sold the bracelet; with much difficulty he discovered her abode, and by the united aid of threats and promises, soon drew from her the intelligence he wanted: then sending his servant for a post-chaise, he insisted upon her accompanying him back that evening to Kingston. He ordered the postillion to drive to Mrs. Roper's lodgings; but not finding her at home, they followed her to Mrs. Cavendish's house. As soon as he alighted from the carriage, he took his compa-

fu sorpresa nell' intendér una tal novella; e cominciò a pensare, siccóme gli altri servi, che gatta ci covasse, e che finalmente la póvera Pechina sarebbe riconosciúta innocente. Laonde, avéndola essi teneramente abbracciata, l'indússero facilmente ad andársene con Chiaru, col pretesto che la sua matrina, che era colla signora Fowler, avéa mandato per essa. Che se avesse ella creduto di non dovérvi più ritornare, non altro che la viva forza avrebbe potuto staccárnela.

27. Quando ella seppe dalla signora Fowler che dovéva stársi seco finattantochè la sua benefattrice avesse trovato il modo di collocárla altrimenti, si sentí come strappár il cuore, e parlò con tal vigóre della sua innocenza, che la signora Fowler cominciò a dubitare della colpa che le veníva imputata; e il di lei marito andò a trovare il giojelliére, per méglio informársi di questo fatto.

28. Il racconto di costúi accrébbe i suoi sospetti a segno, che volle ad ogni modo vedér la ragazza che avea venduto lo smaniglio. Ebbe non poca difficoltà a trovárne l'abitazione, e, per via di promesse unite alle minácce, le cavò ben presto di bocca le notizie di cui abbisognava. Allora, mandato il suo servo per una sédia di posta, volle che ella seco venisse la sera stessa a Kingston. Ordinò al postigliône di fermare a casa la signora Roper: ma non essendo essa in casa, andárono dalla signora Cavendish. Scesi che furono, egli prese

nion by the arm, and without waiting to have his name announced, walked unexpectedly into the drawing-room.

29. "It is rather a late hour, Madam," said he, "to introduce a London visitor; but when *suspicion* can be *removed*, and *guilt detected*, I think we have no right to *attend to ceremony*." Then, darting a fierce look at Mrs. Roper,—"As to you, Madam," said he, "*introduction* is *unnecessary*, as this young woman is your *old acquaintance*."

30. Unable to support the expected explanation, she arose from her seat, and catching Charlotte by the hand, said—"Come, child, let us quit this hated house, where we have all our lives received *insult* and neglect:" so saying, she bounced out of the room, leaving Mrs. Cavendish petrified with astonishment.

31. Mr. Fowler then made a brief recital of the circumstances that have been related, which were corroborated by the girl's testimony; who declared, she would not have taken the picture for *twenty half-crowns*, instead of one, could she have known the wickedness of the plot.

32. Mr. Fowler could hardly dissuade Mrs. Cavendish from going that night to his house for the purpose of restoring her beloved god-daughter to the place she had formerly held in her affections; and before eight o'clock the next morning, she pressed her to her bosom, but expressed her concern for the injustice she had done her,

la sua compagna a bráccio, e senza fare alcuna imbasciáta, entrò improvvisamente nel salóne.

29. "Egli è un po tardi, Madama," diss' egli "per presentarvi una persona che viéne da Londra: ma, trattandosi di tor via un sospetto e di scoprire un cólpévole, penso che non ci vógliano tante cerimónie." Quindi, gettando uno sguardo biéco sulla Signora Roper, disse: "Quanto a voi, signora, non occorre presentarvela, essendo questa gióvane una vostra antica conoscente."

30. Non avendo animo di aspettare altra spiegazióne, s'alzò la signora Roper da sedére, e, presa Carlotta per mano, "via," disse, mia figlia, andiáncene da questa casa odiósa, in cui non abbiámo ricevuto altro che disprezzi e insulti. In così dire s'uscì prestamente di cámera, lasciando la signora Cavendish come trasognata.

31. Allora il signor Fowler espose brevemente il fatto siccóme si è narrato; e ogni cosa fu confermata dalla testimoniánza della ragazza, la quale protestò, che, se avesse conosciuta l'ingiustizia di quella trama, non avrebbe ricevuta la pittura per venti scudi, non che per uno.

32. Ebbe molto che fare il Signor Fowler, per dissuadére la signora Cavendish dal venire la sera stessa a casa sua, per rimétter la sua figliúccia in possesso di quell' antico affetto, che le portava; ma la mattina segnente prima dell' otto, ella se la strinse al seno; le espresse il cordóglio che provava per l'ingiustizia fáttale, e le promise di

and promised never again to be biassed by the insinuations of the artful, or of the interested.

33. Little Pekin's *joy* was as *violent* as her *grief*, and the tears she shed at being restored to her god-mamma's favour, were nearly as abundant as those which accompanied her disgrace. Matilda's happiness was equally sincere; and, to complete their felicity, a letter was delivered to Mrs. Cavendish, informing her, that Mrs. Roper had taken a final leave of Kingston, and intended residing with her elder brother, where she expected to receive the payment of her annuity.

mai piú dar retta alle suggestióni delle persone finte o interessate.

33. L'allegrezza di Pechina non fu inferióre al suo passato affanno; e le lácrime di piacere che sparse nel vedérsi rientrata in grázia colla sua matrina, agguagliárono in certo modo quelle che versate avea nel tempo della sua disgrázia. Non minóre fu il contento di Matilda; e, per colmo della loro giója, la signora Cavendish ricevette una léttera la quale l'informava, che la signora Roper aveva dato un perpétuo addío a Kingston, per andársene a stare col suo fratello maggióre; e che colà sperava di ricévere il suo ánnuo assegnamento.

TALE THE THIRD.

THE KIDNAPPED CHILD.

1. In a beautiful villa on the banks of the Medway, resided a gentleman whose name was Darnley, who had, during the early part of his life, filled a post of some importance about the Court, and even in its decline, preserved that elegance of manner which so peculiarly marks a finished gentleman. And although the loss of a beloved wife had given a pensive cast to his features, and a seriousness to his deportment, which many people imagined proceeded from a haughtiness of disposition; yet nothing could be farther from Mr. Darnley's character; for he was affable, gentle, benevolent, and humane.

2. His family consisted of four daughters and an only sister, Mrs. Collier, who, like himself, had lost the object of her tenderest affection; but who, in dividing her attention between her brother and his amiable children, endeavoured to forget her own misfortunes.

3. Mr. Darnley's fortune was sufficiently great to have enabled him to place his daughters in the

NOVELLA TERZA.

LA FANCIULLINA INVOLATA.

1. Dimorava in una deliziósa villa situata sulla spiággia del Medway, un gentiluomo chiamato Darnley, il quale fin dalla prima giovanezza aveva occupato un posto onorévole in corte, e conservava eziandío nell' età avanzata quella leggiadría di costumi che qualifica sì bene un compíto gentiluomo; e sebbéne la morte della sua cara móglie l'avesse reso pensieróso e di grave contegno, il che molti attribuívano a un naturale borióso; con tutto ciò egli era di tutt' altra tempra, vóglio dire, affábile, gentile, benéfico ed amorévole.

2. La sua famíglia era composta di quattro figlie e d'una sorella única, la signora Collier, che avéa perduto, siccóme égli, l'oggetto del suo più ténero affetto e cercava un allegiamento alla sua disgrázia, col divídere le sue cure tra il fratello e le di lui amábili figliuóle.

3. Aveva il signor Darnley un' entrata sufficiente per porre le sue figlie in una delle prime pen-

first school in London, but he preferred having them under his immediate instruction: and as Mrs. Collier offered to assist him in their education, he resolved for some years not to engage a governess, as nurse Chapman was one of those worthy creatures to whose care he could securely trust them.

4. It happened that an old friend of Mr. Darnley's had recently bought a house at Rochester, and that gentleman and his sister were invited to pass a few days there; and as Emily grew rather too big for the nurse's management, Mrs. Collier resolved to make her of the party, leaving Sophia, Amanda, and Eliza, under that good woman's protection.

5. It was Mr. Darnley's wish that the young folks should rise early, and take a long walk every morning before breakfast; but they were strictly ordered never to go beyond their own grounds, unless their aunt or father accompanied them. This order they had frequently endeavoured to persuade nurse Chapman to disregard; but, faithful to the trust reposed in her, she always resisted their urgent entreaties.

6. The morning after Mr. Darnley went to Rochester, the poor woman found herself thoroughly indisposed, and wholly incapable of rising at the accustomed hour. The children, however, were dressed for walking, and Susan, the nurse-maid, charged not to go beyond the shrubbery, and they all sallied out in high good humour.

sióni di Londra, ma amò méglio di farle instruire sótto i suoi occhi, ed esséndosi sua sorella offerta di assisterlo nella loro educazione, volle indugiár ancora qualche annó a dar loro un' ája, tanto più avendo égli in casa la signora Chapman governante veramente di garbo, a cui poteva con tutta sicurezza affidárne la cura.

4. Ora avvénne, che avendo, un vécchio amico del signor Darnley, comprato una casa a Rochester, invitò lui e sua sorella a passárvi alcúni giorni; ed essendo Emília già grandicella, per non dovérsi in tal caso rimanére, la signora Collier volle avérla seco, e lasciò Sofia, Amanda, ed Elisa in custódia della governante.

5. Amava il signor Darnley che le sue figliuole s'alzássero la mattina per tempo, e che prima di far colazióne facéssero una buona spasseggiáta, con órdine espresso però, che non dovéssero oltrepassare i límiti delle loro terre, se pur non fóssero in compagnía della zía o del padre. Avévano esse tentato più volte d'indurre la signora Chapman a fare altrimenti: ma essa, fedéle alla confidenza che s'avéva in lei, non volle mai condiscéndere alle loro istanze.

6. La mattina dopo che fu partito il signor Darnley per Rochester, la governante si trovò talmente incomodata, che non potè alzársi all' ora sólita. Pure, essendo già vestite le ragazze per andár a spasso, fu dato órdine a Susanna sottogovernante, di andár con esse, ma non più là del boschetto; e se n'uscírono tutte allegramente.

7. Now, Susan," said Sophia (as soon as they entered the garden), "is the only opportunity you may ever have of obliging us; do let us walk to the village, and then you know you can call and see your father and mother."—"Law, Miss!" replied the girl, "why you know 'tis as much as my place is worth, if Nurse Chapman should find it out."—"*Find it out indeed!*" said Amanda; "how do you think she is to find it out? Come do let us go, there's a dear, good creature."—"Yes, dear, dear Susan, do let us go," said Eliza (skipping on before them), "and I'll show you the way; for I walked there last summer with papa."

8. Whether it was the wish of obliging the young ladies, or the desire of seeing her parents, I cannot pretend to say, but in a luckless hour Susan yielded, and the party soon reached the village.

9. Susan's mother was delighted at seeing her, and highly honoured by the young ladies' presence. "Oh, sweet, dear creatures!" said the old woman, "I must get something for them to eat after their long walk, and my oven's quite hot, and I can bake them a little cake in a quarter of an hour, and I'll milk Jenny in ten minutes."—The temptation of hot cake and *new milk* was not to be withstood; and Susan began taking down some smart china cups, which were arranged in form upon the mantlepiece, and carefully dusted them for the young ladies' use.

10. Eliza followed the old woman into the cow-house, and began asking a thousand questions,

7. Appéna avéano esse posto piede nel giardino, che Sofia disse a Susanna: "Ecco ora il tempo in cui potete fárci un servízio: andiámo sino al villággio; e così, vedete, voi potrete far una visita a vostro padre e a vostra madre."—"Oh ciélo! signorina," riprese Susanna, "se mai la signora Chapman venisse a risapér questa cosa, io saréi licenziáta."—"Risapérlo? davvéro" disse Amanda "come volette che lo risáppia? Via, andiámo: voi siete una buona ragazza."—"Sì, cara, cara Susanna, andiamo," disse Elisa, saltando loro davanti; "ed io vi mostrerò la strada, perchè la state passata vi andái passeggiando con mío babbo."

8. O fosse per ingrazianirsi colle signorine, o per vòglia di vedére i suoi genitori, nol sapréi ben dire: il fatto è che Susanna vi acconsentì in mal punto, e la brigata arrivò ben presto al villággio.

9. S'allegrò la madre nel vedér la sua figlia e si tenne per molto onorata d'una tal visita. "Oh mie dolci e care signorine" disse la buona vécchia, "avete fatto una lunga gita e vi convién pigliár qualche cosa per rinfrescárvi: il mio forno è caldo; in un quarto d'ora, una schiacciatina sarà cotta: e in dieci minuti vo a múgner *Gemmy*." Una schiacciáta calda e del latte fresco non érano cose da ricusársi; e Susanna cominciò a dar di mano a certe belle tazze di porcellana che stávano sulla credenza e si diéde a spolverárle con sollecitúdine per uso delle signorine.

10. Elisa andò diétro alla buona vécchia nella stalla e le stava facendo mille domande, quando

when her attention was suddenly attracted by the appearance of a tame lamb, who went bleating up to its mistress, with a view of asking its accustomed breakfast.—"You must wait a little, Billy," said the woman, "and let your *betters* be served before you—don't you see that we have got *gentlefolks* to breakfast with us this morning?"—Eliza was so delighted with the beauty of the little animal, that she wanted to kiss it, and attempted to restrain it for that purpose, whilst Billy, ungrateful for his intended kindness, gave a sudden spring, and frisked away. Eliza followed, in hopes of being able to catch him; but he ran baaing into the high road.

11. A woman, whose appearance was descriptive of poverty, but whose smiling countenance indicated good nature, at that moment happened to pass, and accosting Eliza in a tone of familiarity, said, "That's not half such a pretty lamb, Miss, as I have got at home, and not a quarter so tame; for if you did but say *Bob*, he'd follow you from one end of the village to the other; and then he'll fetch and carry like a dog, stand up on his hind legs, when my husband says Up, for the thing, and play more tricks than a young kitten."—"Oh, the pretty creature!" replied Eliza, "how I should like to see it!"—"Well, come along with me, Miss," said the woman, "for I only lives just across the next field; but you must run as hard as you can, because my husband is going to work, and he generally takes Bob with him,"—"Well, make haste then," said Eliza; for I

le venne improvvisamente veduto un agnellino domestico che andava belando verso la sua padrona per chiéderle la sua sólita colezione.—" Aspetta un poco, Billy" disse la donna "elásciami prima servire chi è più degno di te: non vedi tu che abbiámo questa mattina delle gentildonne a colezione con noi ?"—Elisa presa dalla bellezza di quell' animaletto, voleva baciárlo e gli andava attorno per arrestarlo: ma Billy, ingrato a tanta cortesìa, diede una stratta e saltò via. Elisa gli teneva dietro per raggiúngerlo: ma egli, belando, corse dirittamente sulla púbblica strada.

11. Avvenne che passò in quel punto una donna la quale era il ritratto della miséria, ma d'un' ária piacévole e di gioviále aspetto. Costéi, accostátasi per modo amichévole ad Elisa, le disse: " signorina, quest' agnellino non è bello la metà di uno che ho a casa: il mio è tre volte più dócile: non avete che a dirgli, Bob, ed egli vi vién dietro da un capo all'. altro del villággio e busca come un cane; sta su due piedi quando mio marito gli dice *Su, da brave;* e fa più scherzi che un gattino."—" Oh che bella cosa!" replicò Elisa " quanto ameréi di vedérlo!" —" Bene, venite meco," disse la donna, " perchè io sto solamente di là da questo campo: ma avete a córrere a forza, perchè mio marito è per andare al lavóra ed è sólito di condur seco Bob." —" Via, spicciámoci," disse Elisa, " perchè non vi posso star più d'un mezzo minuto."—" Dú-

must not stay half a minute,"—"Give me your hand, Miss," replied the woman; "for we can run faster together. But there goes my husband, I declare; and there's Bob, as usual, skipping on before him."—"Where? where?" exclaimed Eliza, stretching out her little neck as far as she possibly could, to see if she could discern the lamb.—"You are not tall enough," said the artful creature; "but let me lift you up, Miss, and then I dare say you'll see them;" and instantly catching her up, she cried out, "Look directly towards the steeple, Miss; but I'll run with you in my arms, and I warrant we'll soon overtake them."

12. Eliza looked, but looked in vain; and perceiving the woman had soon carried her out of sight of the cottage, begged she would set her down, as she dare not go any farther.—The vile creature was absolutely incapable of replying, for her breath was nearly exhausted by the rapidity of the motion, and Eliza continued entreating her to stop, and struggled violently to elude her grasp. At length, after a quarter of an hour's exertion, the woman found herself incapable of proceeding and stopping suddenly, sat down on a bank, keeping tight hold of Eliza's arm, who cried dreadfully, and besought her to let her go.—"*Let you go!*" she replied; "what, after all the the plague I've had to knab you? No, no, you don't catch me at that, I promise you; but, be a good girl, and don't cry, and then you may see Bob by and by, perhaps."

temi la mano, signorina, " soggiunse la donna, " chè così andremo più presto. Ma, ecco appunto colà mio marito con Bob, che, al sólito, gli va saltellando dinanzi."—" Dove? dove?" sclamò Elisa, rizzándosi quanto poteva, per vedér l'agnello.—" Non siéte grande abbastanza," disse l'infinta donna; " ma, lasciáte, signorina, chè v'alzi, e son certa che li vedréte;" e presala e tenéndola alta, gridava forte: " mirate dirittamente verso il campanile, signorina: ma, correrò con voi in bráccio, e vi prometto che li raggiungerémo ben presto."

12. Elisa stava mirando, ma in vano; ed accórtasi che la donna avéale già fatto perder di vista la casa, la pregò di posárla a terra, perchè non ardiva andar più oltre.—Quell' indegna non era in grado di rispónderle, potendo a pena rifiatare per la rapidità della corsa; ed Elisa continuava a pregárla di fermársi, divincolándosi a più potére, per uscírle di mano. Finalmente, dopo un quarto d'ora di contrasto, non potendo la donna più camminare, si fermò in un tratto, e pósesi a sedére sur un rialto, tenendo stretta Elisa pel braccio, la quale spaventata gridava forte e pregávala di lasciárla andare. —" Lasciarvi andare?" rispos' ella " e che? dopo il malanno che ho avuto a strascicárvi fin quì? No, no, voi non m'infinocchiáte per questa volta, ve n'assicúro: ma, siáte buona, non gridate, e forse tra poco vedréte Bob."

13. "Oh, my sisters! my sisters! let me go to my sisters!" cried the child.—"I'll find plenty of sisters for you in a few days," said the vile creature; "but they won't know you in them there fine clothes; so let's pull them off in a minute, and then we'll have another race after Bob."—So saying, she stripped off the white frock, hat, and tippet; the rest of the things shared the same fate, and she was compelled to put on some old rags, which the inhuman creature took out of a bag she carried under her petticoat; then taking a bottle of liquid from the same place, she instantly began washing poor Eliza's face with it; and, notwithstanding all her remonstrances, cut her beautiful hair close to her head. Thus metamorphosed, it would have been impossible even for Mr. Darnley to have known his child, and they proceeded onwards until her little legs would carry her no farther.

14. At this period they were overtaken by the Canterbury waggon, and for a mere trifle the driver consented to let them ride to London. Eliza's tears continued to flow, but she dare not utter a complaint, as her inhuman companion protested she would break every bone in her skin if she ventured to make the least noise.

15. When they arrived in town, she was dragged to a miserable hole, down several steps, where they gave her some bread and butter to eat, and then desired her to go to bed. The bed, if such

13. " Oh mie sorelle! mie sorelle! lasciátemi andare colle mie sorelle " gridava la ragazzina. —" Vi farò trovár sorelle quante ne volete, fra pochi giorni " disse la malvágia donna: " ma non vi riconosceránno in questi ábiti sì gentili: così in un minuto ve li cangerò, e faremo un' altra corsa dietro a Bob." Il dire e lo strappárle da dosso la sua bianca veste, la cappellina e la palatina, fù una cosa: così fece del resto. Sicchè fù ella costretta a vestirsi di certi vecchi cenci che la bárbara donna cavò da un sacchetto che portava sotto la gonnella. Tratta quindi una bottíglia d'un certo líquido, si diede a lavár con esso il viso della póvera Elisa; poi, malgrádo tutte le di lei rimostranze, le tagliò la sua bella capellatura rasente il capo. Sfigurata in modo Elisa, che il signor Darnley stesso non avrebbe potuto riconóscerla, continuárono a camminare finchè le sue piccole gambe più non reggévano al viággio.

14. Fúrono in quel punto sopraggiúnte dalla vettura di Canterbury; e si contentò il vetturále di condurle a Londra per una bagatella. Sruggévasi Elisa in lácrime, ma non ardiva portar lagnanze, perciocchè la sua crudél compagna avea protestato, che se mai avesse osato aprír bocca, avrebbele spezzate tutte l'ossa, l'uno dopo l'altro.

15. Giunte che fúrona in città, fú fatta entrare in un buco di cámera, dove si scendeva per alcuni scaglioni: le fu dato a mangiare un po di pane col burro; poi fu mandata a letto. Questa

it might be called, was little else but a bundle of rags thrown into a corner of the room, with a dirty blanket spread across it, and there she was left by her inhuman seducer to mourn her misfortune, and lament having disregarded her papa's injunctions. The next morning she was forced to rise the moment it was light, and to walk as far as her little legs would carry her, before they stopped any where to take refreshment. The second night was passed in a barn, and about five o'clock the third afternoon, they knocked at the door of a neat-looking cottage, where nine or ten children were sitting in a little room, making lace.

16. "Why, Peggy," said the woman, as she opened the door, "I thought you never would have comed again! however, I see you have got me a hand at last, and God knows I'm enough in wants of her; for two of my brats have thought proper to fall sick, and I've more to do than ever I had in my life."—On the following day, Eliza's filthy rags were all taken off, and she was dressed in a tidy brown stuff gown, a nice clean round-eared cap, and a little coloured apron; and she was ordered, if any person asked her name, to say it was *Biddy Bullen*, and that she was niece to the woman who employed her. The severity with which all this wretch's commands were enforced, wholly prevented any of the helpless victims who were under her protection from daring to disobey them; and though most of them were placed under her care by the same vile

letto, se pur tale poteva chiamarsi, era poco meno che un involto di stracci gettato in un canto della camera, con sopra una coperta súdicia. Quivi fu lasciata dall' inumána seduttrice a piángere la sua disgrázia e il poco risguardo che aveva avúto agli órdini del padre. La mattina fu fatta alzare sul far del giorno, ed ebbe a camminare senza fermarsi o prénder ristoro infinoattantochè le sue ténere gambe non ne potévano più. Passárono la seconda notte in una cascina; e il terzo giorno, verso le cinque dopo mezzodì, picchiárono a una casetta pulitina, dove nove o dieci ragazzette si stávano lavorando di trina in una camerella.

16. " Oh bene, Margherita," disse la donna, quando ebbe aperto, " io mi credeva che non aveste più a ritornare: ma veggo che mi avete finalmente trovato un ajúto; e, Dio sa, se ne ho bisogno, perchè due delle mie mocciése hanno stimato a propósito di ammalarsi, ed io mi trovo del lavoro più che mai. — Il giorno seguente fu spogliata Elisa de' suoi cenci ed ebbe una vesta di panno brunazzo pulitino, una bella cúffia bianca, che andava attorno gli orecchi, con un grembiale di sciámito. Le fu ordinato, che, essendo da taluno addomandata del suo nome, dovesse rispóndere *Biddy Bullen*, e dire, se ésser nipote della donna che ivi impiegata l'aveva. Tal era la severità con cui quella trista intimava tutti i suoi órdini, che non c'era pericolo, che alcuna di quelle pòvere víttime che érano in suo potére, osasse trasgredirli. E sebbene

agent who had decoyed Eliza, yet they all were tutored to relate similar untruths.

17. But I now think it is high time to carry my readers back to the cottage scene, where Susan was arranging things in order for breakfast, and Sophia and her sister were anxiously watching the moment when the cake was pronounced completely ready.

18. The old woman soon returned with the milk-pail on her arm, and Susan eagerly demanded "Where's Miss Eliza?"—"Oh, the pretty creature," replied her mother, "she'll be here in a minute, I warrant her; but she's gone skipping after our Billy, and two sweet innocents they are together."—She then went to the oven, produced the cake, and began buttering it with all expedition, whilst Sophia joyously ran to the door of the cow-house, and began loudly calling her sister Eliza. No answer being returned, Susan began to feel alarmed, but the young ladies told her not to be frightened, as they knew it was only *one of Eliza's pranks.* But, alas! too soon were they convinced it was no joke, and that some dreadful misfortune must have happened.

19. "Miss Eliza! Miss Eliza!" was vociferated through the village, not only by Susan and her mother, but by all the neighbours who had heard of the calamity, whilst her sisters ran about frantic with grief, crying Eliza, my love! my dar-

la maggior parte di esse fossero ivi capitate per ópera della stessa indegna mezzana che aveva sedotta Elisa; tuttavía, a ognuna di esse veniva imposto di dire simili bugíe.

17. Ma egli è ormái tempo di ricondurre i miei lettori al villággio, dove Susanna stava preparando la távola per far colazione: e Sofia colla sua sorella anziosamente aspettavano l'avviso che la schiacciata era in távola.

18. Tornò ben presto la buona vécchia colla sécchia di latte; e Susanna le disse con ardenza: "dov'è la signora Elisa?"—"Oh! quella gentil creatura," ripose la madre, "sarà quì in un momento, ne son certa. Ella è ita saltellando dietro al nostro Billy: sono due innocentini assième."—Ciò detto, s'avviò al forno, ne cavò la schiacciata e cominciò con ogni speditezza a méttervi su del butíro. In questo, Sofia corse allegramente alla porta della stalla e si diede a chiamár forte sua sorella Elisa, la quale non rispondendo, incominciò Susanna a sbigottirsi: ma le signorine la confortárono a non avér paúra: chè era questo uno de' suoi sóliti scherzi. Ma, oimè! riconóbbero ben presto, non esser questo uno scherzo, e che qualche strana avventura érale occorsa.

19. "Signora Elisa! signora Eliza!" gridávano ad alta voce per tutto il villággio non solo Susanna e la madre, ma tutti i vicini che érano informati di questo accidente; e le súe sorelle andavano attorno tutte affannose gridando: "Elisa,

ling! Oh! if you are hid, for *pity's sake speak!*"

20. Nurse Chapman got up about half past nine, and hearing the children were not returned from their walk, sent Betty the housemaid directly after them.—The garden, the shrubbery, and the lawn, were all searched without success; and, just as she was returning to inform the nurse they were not to be found, she perceived Susan and the two children enter a little green gate at the bottom of the shrubbery.

21. "Where's Miss Eliza?" called Betty, in a voice as loud as she could articulate. "God knows! God knows!" replied the careless girl, sobbing so loud she could scarcely speak.—"How! Where! When!" said the other,—"Why, poor nurse will go quite stark, staring mad!" By this time the poor woman had quitted her room and walked into the garden, to see what had become of her little charges; and not directly missing Eliza from the group, which were then fast approaching towards the house, she called out, "Come, my dear children, come along; for I thought you would never have returned again:"—and observing Eliza was not with them, she continued; "But, Susan, what's become of my sweet bird? Where's my little darling, Miss Eliza?"—"Oh, nurse! nurse!" said Sophia, "my sister's lost! indeed she's lost!"—"Lost!" exclaimed the poor old woman: "lost! what do you tell me? What do I hear? Oh, my master! my dear

care Elisa! "giója mia! oh, se state nascosta, parlate per pietà!"

20. La governante Chapman s'alzò circa le nove e mezzo; e, vedendo che le ragazze non erano ritornate dal passéggio, mandò súbito la serva Bettina a cercarne, la quale andò a vedére nel giardino, nel boschetto e nel pratello, ma inutilmente. Stava esser per riportar la riposta, che non si trovávano, quando vide éntrare Susanna con due ragazze per la porta verde, in fondo del boschetto.

21. "Dov' è la signora Elisa?" gridò Bettina con alta voce quanta n'aveva in gola. "Dio lo sa, Dio lo sa," rispose la ragazza trascurata, singhiozzando sì forte che appéna poteva parlare. —"Come! dove! quando!" disse l'altra, "questo ha a dar la volta al cervello della póvera governante." In questo mentre era la buona donna uscita di cámera e s'avviava nel giardino per inténder nuove de' suoi piccoli allievi; e, non esséndosi per anche accorta, che mancava Elisa nella brigata che affrettava il passo verso la casa, disse: "venite mie care fanciulle, venite, perchè mi credeva che non foste più per ritornare;" e, non vedendo Elisa con esse, soggiunse "ma, Susanna che è stato della giója mia? Dov' è la mia cara, la signora Elisa?"— "Oh signora governante," disse Sofia, "mia sorella è perduta, ell' è perduta davvero."— "Perduta!" sclamò la póvera vécchia "perduta! che dite voi! che sento! Oh mio padróne!

master! never shall I bear to see his face again!"

22. Susan then repeated every circumstance just as has been related, and with sighs and tears bewailed her own folly, in suffering herself to be *over-persuaded.* And the children declared they dare not encounter their papa's displeasure!

23. The men servants were instantly summoned, and sent on horseback different ways. That she had been stolen, admitted of no doubt, as there was no water near the cottage, and had any accident happened, they must have found her, as they had searched every part of the village before they ventured to return home.—One servant was sent to Rochester, another towards London, and a third and forth the cross country roads: but no intelligence could be obtained, or the slightest information gathered, by which the unfortunate child could be found, or her wicked decoyer's footsteps traced.

24. When Mr. Darnley was apprised of the calamitous event, the agitation of his mind may easily be conceived, but can never be described. Handbills were instantly circulated all over the country, the child's person described, and a reward of five hundred guineas offered for her restoration.

25. Sophia and Amanda were inconsolable, and Susan was ordered to be discharged before Mr. Darnley returned home, which he did not do for more than a month after the melancholy circumstance happened. As he was not satisfied

mio caro padrone! non potrò mai più comparirgli innanzi!

22. Allora Susanna raccontò ogni cosa come già si è detto, e confessò con lácrime e singhiozzi, che avea mancato nel dar retta alle istanze delle signorine, le quali protestárono che con ardirebbono mai affacciársi al loro babbo adirato.

23. Fúrono immediatamente spediti servi a cavallo per diverse parti. Si teneva per certo che fosse stata rubata; poichè non v'érano ricetti d'acqua attorno al villággio, e poi, in ogni evento, dopo le ricerche fatte, avvrebbono dovuto trovarla prima di tornarsi a casa. Un servo fu mandato a Rochester, l'altro verso Londra, e due altri ébbero órdine d'andar attorno pel paese: ma non fu possibile di avér notizia alcuna benchè ménoma dell'infelice ragazza o di rintracciárne la malvágia rapitrice.

24. Egli è più facile l'immaginarsi, che il descrivere il cordoglio che provò il signor Darnley, allorchè ricevette una sì funesta nuova. Fece pubblicare avvisi per tutto il paese, in cui veniva contrassegnata la ragazzina; e cinque cento ghinée di prémio fúrono promesse a chiunque l'avesse ritrovata.

25. Sofia ed Amanda erano inconsolábili; e Susanna fu licenziata prima che il signor Darnley ritornasse a casa: il che però egli non fece che un mese e più dopo questo tristo accidente. Intanto, non contento di mandar messi in cerca

with sending messengers in pursuit of his lost treasure, but went himself to all those wretched parts of London where poverty and vice are known to dwell: and at length gave up the interesting pursuit because he found his health rendered him incapable of continuing it.

26. Nine tedious months passed away without any intelligence of the lost Eliza; and time, which is a general remedy for all misfortunes, had not softened the severity of their affliction, Mrs. Collier had engaged a lady to be governess to her nieces, as her attention had been wholly devoted to her unfortunate brother, whose agitated state of mind had produced a bodily complaint which demanded her unremitting care and tenderness.

27. Although Emily loved Eliza with the fondest affection, yet her grief was much less poignant than either of her sisters, as she could not accuse herself with being accessary to her loss. "Never, never shall I forgive myself," Sophia would often say, "for having deviated from my dear papa's command! Oh, so good and indulgent as he is to us, how wicked it was to transgress his will! I was the *eldest*, and ought to have *known better*, and my poor Eliza is the sufferer for my crime!" Thus would she bewail her folly and imprudence, until, agonized by the torture of her own reflections, she would sink down in a chair quite exhausted, and burst into a flood of tears.

28. Whilst the family at Darnley-hall were

di sua cara figlia, andò egli in persona per tutti que' luoghi di Londra che son risguardati come il ricettácolo della miséria e del vízio. Finalmente vedendo che la sua salute più non gli permetteva di andar oltre, si soprastette dalle sue solécite ricerche.

26. Nove tristi mesi éran passati senza che nuova alcuna si avesse della perdata Elisa, e che il tempo, rimédio generále de' mali, avesse punto addolcito l'acerbità del loro dolore. La signora Collier aveva impegnata una signora a far da aja alle sue nipoti, perciocchè tutte le di lei cure éransi rivolte verso il suo infelice fratello, cui le afflizióni dell' ánimo avéan reso infermiccio, ed aveva continuamente bisogno della sua ténera assistenza.

27. Quantunque Emília amasse cordialmente Elisa; pure il suo dolore non era vivo quanto quello delle sue sorelle, perciocchè non poteva rimproverársi d'aver avuto parte alla di lei pérdita. Ma Sofia ripeteva spesso: "io non me la perdonerò giammái, per avér disubbidito al mio caro babbo. Oh! quanto ho fatto male a trasgredire gli órdini d'un padre sì buono, sì indulgente! Io era la maggiore e doveva aver più giudízio; e ora la mia póvera Elisa paga il fio del mio mancamento." Quindi, detestando la sua follia ed imprudenza e tormentata delle próprie riflessioni, vinta dal dolore, si gettava sopra una sédia, e struggévasi in lácrime.

28. Mentre la casa Darnley stava a questo

thus a prey to unavailing sorrow, the lovely little girl who had occasioned it was beginning to grow more reconciled to the cruelty of her destiny, and to support her different mode of life with resignation and composure. She had acquired such a degree of skill in the art of lace-making (which was the business her employer followed), as generally to be able to perform the tasks which were allotted her, and if it so happened she was incapable of doing it, Sally Butchell, a child about two years older than herself, of whom she was very fond, was always kind enough to complete it for her.

29. The cottage in which the vile Mrs. Bullen resided, was situated about a quarter of a mile from High Wycombe; and whenever she was obliged to go to that place, either to purchase necessaries or to dispose of her goods, she always went either before her family were up, or after they had retired to rest, locking the door constantly after her, and putting the key in her pocket; so that the poor little souls had no opportunity of telling their misfortunes to any human creature.

30. One intense hot afternoon, in the month of August, as the children were sitting hard at work, with the door open for the sake of air, an elderly lady and gentleman walked up to it, and begged to be accommodated with a seat; informing Mrs. Bullen their carriage had broke down about a mile distant, and they had been obliged to walk in the heat of the sun.

modo e senza pro alcuno, in preda alla tristezza, l'amábile ragazzina, che n'era la cagione, cominciava a dimesticársi colla crudeltà del suo destino, e a conformársi soavemente a quel suo nuóvo génere di vita. Tanto si era ella avanzata nell' arte di far la trina (e questo era il mestiére della sua maestra), che quasi sempre faceva tutto il lavóro che le veniva imposto. Che se a caso non avesse potuto finirlo, *Sally Butchell* súa grande amica che aveva forse due anni più di lei, amorevolmente gliele terminava.

29. La casetta, in cui dimorava quella ribalda della signora Bullen, era distante da *High Wycombe* circa un quarto di miglio; ed ognivoltachè doveva essa andárvi, o per far le sue provvisioni, o per véndere la sua mercanzía, vi andava prima che la sua famíglia si fosse alzata da letto, oppure dopo che era andata a riposarsi. In ogni caso serrava la porta di casa a chiave e mettévasela in tasca, così che non veniva mai fatto a quelle poverine di parlar delle loro disgrázie con persona del mondo.

30. Stávansi le ragazze, un giorno dopo mezzodì negli ardóri del mese d'agosto, applicate al lavoro, colla porta aperta, per amor dell' ária: quando una signora e un gentiluomo di età avanzata vi si accostárono, e chiedendo in grázia da sedére, díssero alla signora Bullen, che quasi un miglio di là distante, érasi rotta la loro carrozza ed érano stati costretti di camminare a piedi sotto quella sferza di sole.

31. The appearance of so many children, all industriously employed, was a sight peculiarly pleasing to the liberal-minded Mrs. Montague, and she immediately began asking the woman several questions about them; but there was something of confusion in her manner of replying that called forth Mrs. Montague's surprise and astonishment.—"They really are *lovely children*, my dear," said she, turning to Mr. Montague, who had stood at the door watching the approach of the carriage, which he perceived coming forward: "and as to that little creature, with the mole under its left eye, I declare I think it a perfect beauty."—Mr. Montague turned his head, and regarded Eliza with a look that at once proved that his sentiments corresponded with those of his lady.

32. "What is your name, my love?" said he, in a tone of kindness which poor Eliza had long been a stranger to. The child coloured like scarlet, and looked immediately at her inhuman employer, who, catching the contagion, replied, with evident marks of confusion, "her name is Biddy Bullen, Sir; she's my niece; but 'tis a poor, timid, little fool, and is always in a fright when gentlefolks happen to speak to her: go, Biddy," she continued, "go up into my bed-room, and wind that thread which you'll find upon the reel."—"You should try to *conquer* that *timidity*," said Mr. Montague, "by making her answer every stranger who speaks to her; but by taking that office upon yourself, you absolutely encourage

31. La vista improvvisa di tante ragazze sì industriose ed attente, fu un oggetto di singolar piacere per la valente signora Montague, e fece varie domande alla Donna, intorno ad esse: ma, l'ambiguità e confusione delle riposte, le diede non poco da pensare.---" Sono esse veramente amabili, mio caro," diss' ella, rivolta al signor Montague, che stava alla porta osservando la carrozza che già vedeva venire; " e, quanto a quella fanciullina che un ha un neo sotto l'occhio manco, dico, che, secondo me, è una bellezza perfetta."---Il signor Montague rivoltosi, mirò Elisa, ed approvò col sembiante ciò che la sua consorte diceva.

32. " Come vi chiamate, bella fanciullina?", diss' egli con dolce modo e cortese da gran tempo non più usato colla povera Elisa. Ella, fattasi rossa come lo scarlatto, rivolse subito gli occhi alla sua tiranna, la quale tocca pur anche da vergogna, replicò, non senza evidenti segni di confusione: " Signore, si chiama *Biddy Bullen*; è mia nipote; ma è una sciocchetella che si perita ogni qual volta un gentiluomo le parla." Poi soggiunse: " via, *Biddy*, salite nella mia camera, e dipanate la matassa che è sull' arcolajo."— " Dovreste anzi farle superare quella timidità," disse il signor Montague " col farla rispondere a ogni forestiero che le parla: ma, col ripigliare voi stessa la parola, accrescerete in lei, il difetto

the shyness you complain of. Come hither, my little girl," continued he, observing she was retiring up stairs, "and tell me *boldly* what your *name is.*"

33. Encouraged by the kindness of Mr. Montague's address, the agitated child obeyed the summons, although Mrs. Bullen attempted to *frown her into resistance.* "Well," continued the old gentleman, patting her on the cheek, "and where did you get that pretty mole?"—"My mamma gave it me, Sir," replied the blushing child; "but I did not see her do it, because Nurse Chapman told me she went to Heaven as soon as I was born."—"Your mamma! and what was your mamma's name," said Mr. Montague.—"*Darnley*, Sir," said the child, and suddenly recollecting the lesson that had been taught her, "but *my name is Biddy Bullen, that is my aunt.*"

34. "*Darnley!*" exclaimed Mrs. Montague, "the very child that has been for these twelve months past advertised in all the papers;" then turning to convince herself of the fact, "and the *very mole* confirms it!"—Mr. Montague immediately attempted to secure the woman, but her activity eluded his grasp, and darting out at the back-door, she went out of sight in a few moments.—"*Is she really gone?* Is she really gone?" all the little voices at once demanded, and upon Mr. Montague assuring them she was really *gone for ever*, their joy broke out in a thousand different ways:—some cried—some laughed—and

che le rinfacciáte;" e, vedendo che ella s'avviava verso la scala continuò: "venite quà, mia ragazzina, e ditemi schiettamente il vostro nome."

33. Incoraggita dalla piacevolezza del signor Montague, la turbata giovanetta tornò addiétro, quantunque la signora Bulleu le accennasse col ciglio di far altrimenti. "Bene" soggiunse il gentiluomo lisciándole il viso, "e dove avete voi preso questo bel néo?—Rispos' ella vergognosetta: "mia mamma, signore, me lo fece: ma io non me ne ricordo, perchè la governante Chapman mi disse, ch' essa andò in paradiso, súbito che io fui nata."—"La vostra mamma! e come si chiamava la vostra mamma?" disse il signor Montague.—"*Darnley*, signore," rispose la ragazzina; e ricordándosi tosto della lezione dátale, soggiunse: "ma il mio nome è *Biddy Bullen* ed è costéi mia zia."

34. "*Darnley!*" sclamò la signora Montague "quella stessa ragazza, di cui s' è tanto parlato in tutti i púbblici fogli, da dódici mesi in quà;" quindi vóltasi per assicurarsi del fatto; "e questo néo n' è una prova."—Allóra il signor Montague andò sùbito per métter le mani addosso alla donna: ma essa se la sguscìò prestamente, e, scappando per la porta di dietro, sparì in pochi momenti.—"È ella ita davvéro? davvero?" domandárono a una voce tutte le ragazzine; ed assicurándole il signor Montague ch' ella era ita una volta per sempre, fúrono esse trasportate da tal giója, che alcune gridávano, altre ridévano,

others jumped—in short, there never was a scene more completely calculated to interest the feelings of a benevolent heart.

35. Mr. Montague's carriage at this period arrived, and the footman was desired to fetch a magistrate from Wycombe, whilst the gentleman resolved to remain there until his arrival, and began questioning all the children. Two had been there from so early a period, that they could give no account of their name or origin; but all the rest were so clear in their description, that the benevolent Mr. Montague had no doubt of being able to restore them to their afflicted parents.

36. The magistrate soon arrived, attended by the rector of the place, who hearing from Mr. Montague's servant that a child had been *stolen*, came with an intent of offering his services. All but Eliza were immediately put under his protection, but Mrs. Montague was so anxious she should be their earliest care, that she begged her husband to order a post-chaise directly, and set off immediately for Mr. Darnley's. This request was willingly complied with, and by three o'clock the next afternoon, the party arrived at Darnley-hall.

37. Mrs. Collier was attending at the window when the carriage stopped, and looking earnestly at her niece, suddenly exclaimed, in a tone of rapture, "My child! my child! my lost Eliza!"—Mr. Darnley, who was reading, sprang from his seat, and flew to the door in an ecstacy of joy; in less than a minute he returned, folding his Eliza to his throbbing heart!—The joyful intelligence

altre saltávano. In una parola, non si vide mai al mondo una scena più compita o più ténera di questa.

35. Arrivò in questo la carrozza del signor Montague il quale mandò il servo pel giúdice di Wycombe; e mentre stava aspettando il di lui arrivo, si fece ad interrogare l'altre ragazze. Due di esse érano ivi capitate sì giovani, che più non si ricordávano nè del loro nome, nè della loro famiglia. Ma tutte le altre diédero sì chiara contezza di se, che l'amorévole signor Montague era quasi sicuro di restituirle agli afflitti loro genitori.

36. Giúnse ben presto il giúdice accompagnato dal parróco del luogo, il quale, avendo inteso dal servo del signora Montague che una ragazzetta era stata involata, vi venne per offrire i suoi servizi. Fúrono immediatamente poste tutte sotto la di lui custódia, salvo Elisa la quale stava talmente a cuore alla signora Montague, che pregò suo marito di far venire senza indúgio una sédia di posta e di condurla subitamente a casa sua. Ciò fec' egli con piacere, e l' indomani verso le tre dopo mezzodì arrivárono à Darnley-hall.

37. Stávasi la signora Collier alla finestra, quando si fermò la carrozza; e, fissato lo sguardo sopra la sua nipote, sclamò in un tratto come estática: "La mia ragazza! la mia ragazza! la mia perduta Elisa!"—Il signor Darnley che stava leggendo, balzò dalla sédia, e, fuor di se per l'allegrezza, si precipitò per le scale, e in meno d'un minuto ritornò, stringéndosi al cuor palpitante

ran through the house, and the other children impatiently flew to this scene of transport. To describe their feelings, or express their felicity, would require the aid of the most descriptive pen, and even then would be but faintly told: and therefore had much better be passed over.

38. Mr. and Mrs. Montague were laden with caresses, and earnestly entreated to remain Mr. Darnley's guests. The hospitable invitation would have been gladly accepted, had not the thoughts of the poor children, who were still at Wycombe, seemed to claim his immediate attention; and so great was the philanthropy of Mr. Montague's character, that he could never rest satisfied if a single duty remained unfulfilled.

THE END.

la sua Elisa.—La lieta nuova si sparse per tutta la casa, e le altre figliuole córsero con impazienza a questa liéta scena. Appéna lo stile il più ricco d'eloquenza, non che il mío, potrebbe descrivere i sentimenti di tenerezza e di giúbilo che inondárono i loro cuori, e però passerò questa cosa sotto silénzio.

38. Stragrandi fúrono le accoglienze fatte al signore e alla signora Montague, ed affettuose le preghiére, perchè si rimanéssero col signor Darnley. Molto volentiéri avvrébbono essi accettato l'amichévole invito, se non glien' avesse distolti il pensiero di quelle póvere ragazze che érano a Wycombe, ed abbisognávano d'un pronto soccorso. E tal fu la bontà di cuore del signora Montague che non si ristette, finchè tutta l'ópera incominciata fu condotta a buón término.

IL FINE.

Jugemens portés par plusieurs Journaux litteraires et autres, sur la Grammaire et sur les Thêmes de V. PERETTI.

BRITISH CRITIC for October 1796, Art. 61, page 442. " Both in France and England the " Grammar of *Veneroni* has long enjoyed the " most extensive reputation, has been printed and " reprinted with augmentations and comments, " and has been considered as the standard book " for instruction in the Italian language. Other " Grammars indeed have been published, but no " one has succeeded in supplanting that. Mr. " *Peretti*, who appears to have studied his own lan- " guage very critically, and certainly has produced " an extensive and useful Grammar, objects to " *Veneroni*, that his fame is confined to France and " England, where his merits can be less properly " appreciated, and by no means extends to Italy; " he undertakes also to convict him of several " faults. His remarks directed against that Author " extends to 51 pages, and are many of them im- " portant. We consider the book as a valuable " present to the students in Italian."

IDEM, for August, 1797, Art. 66, page 212.— " We remarked with pleasure, in our eighth vo- " lume, (p. 442,) the masterly manner in which " this Grammarian combatted the errors of Ve- " neroni; and we bore testimony to his quali- " fications, for the task he then undertook. The " present publication. (*Cours de Thêmes*) is a " kind of sequel to the Grammar, and gives an ex- " cellent illustration of the comparative idioms " of the French and Italian languages. A similar " work in English would be of great use to stu- " dents who may not be sufficiently qualified in

" French to take advantage of this. There is " something peculiarly rational and instructive " in the remarks accompanying these exercises."

CRITICAL REVIEW, for March, 1797, pag 358. " As there are various turns of expression, and " niceties of idiom which cannot be properly " inculcated by mere rules, Themes are requisite " for completing the attainment of any language. " The exercises which *Signor Peretti* has given, " are in the French tongue; and he has subjoined " a variety of notes, calculated to assist the learner " in the task of translation. As few persons learn " Italian before they have studied French, his me- " dium of communication will not be disapproved. " The Themes are well chosen; and they proceed " by regular gradation from the easy to the " difficult. The didactic annotations are judi- " cious, and will lead the attentive student, with " pleasure and profit, into the idiomatic recesses " of an admired language."

MONTHLY REVIEW, Append. to the 16th vol, p. 531.;—" On the whole, this seems to be the full- " est and most complete Italian Grammar...." etc.

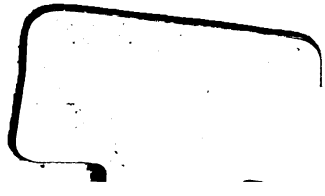
M. Agostino Isola, professeur de langue Italienne à l'Université de Cambridge, dans la lettre qu'il adressa à ce propos à l'Auteur, qui est datée du 6 avril, 1795, dit :... " Mi duole moltissimo, che " in vece della Francese, non sia stata esposta " in lingua Inglese, perchè m'avrebbe dato un' " opportunità d'introdurla nell' Università, e, nel " medesimo tempo un' occasione di dimostrarle " in effetto quanto grande sia la stima che ho " conceputo della sua opera, la quale, per " motivo di merito, non dubito, che non debba " esser preferita ad ogni altra." etc.

LE MONITEUR, No. 56, 25 brumaire an 12, (18 Nov. 1803)... " La Grammaire publiée par " *Vincent Peretti*, goûtée et accréditée par les " Italiens, les meilleurs juges en ce genre, par- " faitement accueillie des autres nations de l'Eu- " rope; elle laisse loin derrière elle celle de " Venéroni, dont la priorité ne suffit pas pour

" soutenir la concurrence, parce que la méthode " et l'exactitude triomphent tôt ou tard de la rou- " tine et de l'erreur."

La Grammaire de Vénéroni fourmille de barbarismes, de gallicismes, d'erreurs en tout genre : elle fronde particulièrement le génie et les règles de la langue italienne : dans les nombreuses éditions qu'on en a faites, on n'en a point corrigé les fautes ; et les additions y ont été multipliées sans goût, et, le plus souvent, sans rapport au but de l'ouvrage. Celle de *Vincent Peretti* a du moins pour garans le suffrage de ceux qui parlent le mieux l'italien et l'autorité des grammairiens et des excellens écrivains qu'offre l'Italie. Dans la première c'est un Français qui enseigne une langue et possédant bien les principes de la nôtre. Aussi les rapprochemens faits par ce dernier entre le deux idiômes, sont-ils curieux et appartiennent à la philosophie du langage. Par exemple, cet Autenr parlant, etc. . . . . C'est ainsi que *Vincent Peretti* a raisonné les principes de sa langue. Les règles qu'il donne sont bien précises, et l'ordre avec le quel il les présente, en fait disparoître la complication. Toutes les parties du discours sont bien analysées et sa Grammaire est une des plus philosophiques qui aient paru. L'impression a le mérite de la netteté et de la correction qui conviennent aux ouvrages elémentaires.

TOURLET.

B. DULAU and Co. having just bought the Copyright of all the much esteemed Publications of Mr. PERETTI, viz. *Grammaire Italienne, Guida alla pronunzia, Cours de Themes Italiens, Vocabolario Italiano,* are going to print them all uniform, with considerable additions by the Author.

London, 1809.